

AGAWAM

Advertiser-News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

Volume XXIII Number 14

April 6, 2000

In Honor Of Ruth C. Bitzas...



LAST FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST, retiring Veterans' Agent Ruth C. Bitzas received a plaque in recognition of her 18 years of service to area veterans. Standing: Tolland Selectman Eric Munson, Southwick Administrative Assistant Karl Steinhart, Bitzas, and Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen. Seated: Granville Administrative Assistant Kathy Martin and Veterans' Office Administrative Assistant Dianne Moreau. (See related story on Page 6.) Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Praising Sister City Commission...



ATTORNEY/TOWN COUNCILOR ANTHONY BONAVIDA (left), a member of the Agawam Sister City Commission, shakes hands with Mayor Richard Cohen and William Euliano (right), vice-chairman of the commission. The Mayor recently approved an ordinance establishing the Sister City relationship with the Italian city of Reggio Calabria. (See related story on Page 2.) Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



EDWARD A. CABA

In Tribute...

Fondly Remembering Eddie Caba

by Robert Magovern
Agawam Town Council President

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2000

It is with a heavy heart that I start tonight's council meeting. I am sure that everyone in the audience knows of the passing of Eddie Caba. During our moment of silence, I would like everyone to pause and reflect for a moment on how Eddie has affected your life or that of the town's.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not say a few words about Eddie Caba. Eddie was a man I wish more people in Agawam could have gotten to know. He was always at the council meeting, ready to take a stand for what he believed in.

When everyone else was done and it might have been prudent to just drop the issue and say nothing, Eddie always weighed in and was there to protect a constituent that he felt was not getting justice. Eddie never grandstanded. If he felt strongly about an issue, you can be sure he spoke up and would not back down unless he was voted down.

I spoke with Eddie last week on Sunday, and he could not stop talking about what he was going to do when he got home. He was excited about helping develop plans for our new DPW facility. He also spent time reminiscing about the old days in Agawam, when he was town manager. He called me John by mistake. My father was John, and I said I was honored that he would call me by my father's name.

SEE CABA - Page 4...

To Finance Visit By Italian Delegation This October...

Sister City Commission Plans Jubilee Yearbook

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Agawam has formally entered into a Sister City relationship with the City of Reggio Calabria in the Republic of Italy. The Agawam City Council established a commission, known as the Agawam Sister City Commission, to foster Agawam's relationship with Reggio Calabria. The cultural, social, educational, and economic opportunities which will result through this relationship are unparalleled, according to proponents.

A commission of 30 members appointed by the Mayor, pursuant to the provisions of the Town Charter, will serve terms of three years. Members of an "ad hoc" commission formed in 1997 will automatically be reappointed to the permanent commission if they so wish.

The ordinance establishing the sister relationship was passed for the second and third reading on March 23rd. Mayor Richard Cohen approved the legislation on March 24th. Cohen told us, "I think this is something that is very exciting for Agawam. The commission is looking to set up an economical, educational, cultural, and social exchange with the Sister City, and they are working very hard. Their dedication and commitment will pay off for the success of the Sister City relationship. We should all be proud to have this opportunity to build harmony through relationships with other countries."

Great care and thought went into the process of selecting a Sister City, said Cohen. An ad hoc selection committee was given the mission of selecting a city in Italy. This process of selection took over two years.

First, different sections of Italy were assigned committee members, who were completely autonomous in making recommendations. The objective was to choose the two best cities from each region, using the criteria from the mission statement (namely, cultural, social, educational, and economic).

A List Of 38 Appropriate Cities...

The result of these efforts was a list of 38 cities appropriate in one way or another as a Sister City. According to William Euliano, vice-chairman of the commission, "We submitted the list of the 38

cities to the Italian Foreign Ministry through the Italian Vice Council, Mr. Polameni, who is responsible for the Districts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

"By Italian law, if a city enters into an agreement as a Sister City, it is a lifetime contract. Consequently, four cities responded in the affirmative to our offer. Other cities either were not interested or already had a Sister City relationship elsewhere," said Euliano.

Out of the four cities that responded, one was ultimately chosen. The Mayors of each city responded to the offer and with confirmation from their City Councils, the relationship was finalized. In early October, people from Reggio Calabria are scheduled to visit Agawam. There will be approximately 30 people in this delegation, and the commission has a rather aggressive itinerary planned for what can surely be considered a momentous occasion.

"We are not funded in any way by the Town of Agawam, so our ability to host these people will rely solely on the success of our fundraising efforts," Euliano said. "We are thrilled about our **Sister City Jubilee Yearbook**, a 2000 yearbook coinciding with the millennium."

There are about 400 to 500 businesses in Agawam. Each commissioner will be assigned from 20 to 25 places to call on. The call will be preceded by a letter from Joseph F. Langone, a former town councilor and chairman of the Sister City Commission. The more funds raised, the greater the opportunity to plan a visit for the Italian delegation that will be rewarding and educational for the visitors.

There will be a minimum of 1,000 of these yearbooks printed. The first section will include facts about Agawam; the second will have pictures and biographies of city officials, Town Council, the administration, the School Committee, and other municipal personnel; and the third section will include advertising.

Funds To Be Used For Hosting Expenses...

All funds are expressly for expenses for hosting the guests from Reggio Calabria. The costs to

cover expenses for such a trip can only be managed through the help of Agawam businesses. Meals, lodging, transportation, and related expenses will be needed to take them to the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge and Sturbridge Village, for example, and to other ceremonies and events happening at that time.

"We hope to have a special event at the Agawam High School football field, subject to approval from the appropriate authorities, that would include the Governor, our Mayor, and our State Representatives," said Euliano.

"I envision the exchanging of gifts and a great closing ceremony to say good-bye to our guests. We're hoping to arrange a 20-minute demonstration of our marching band. The entire experience of having these people as visitors would make a tremendous impression on everyone involved," he added.

Another aspect of the Sister City Program concerns the opportunity for the young people, who are at the core, the root of the interactive relationship between the Sister Cities. Amici Italiani coordinates a program through the schools at all levels. It is coordinated through the principal's office. Students are asked to complete a one-page form, with their name, grade, and gender, along with a photo, postal or e-mail address, and a short, two- or three-line message.

Euliano will be presenting this program to Superintendent of Schools Frank Ameruso for approval. With the cooperation of students, Euliano will present the Mayor of Reggio Calabria **2000 letters** from our children to be distributed to their children in Italy and see what develops out of those relationships. The 2000 represents, of course, the millennium year.

Euliano added, "I am proud of all the commissioners who worked diligently to research the Italian cities and who followed through on the project in order to make this happen. Working with them has been a wonderful experience, and I'm certain that this is just the beginning of many exceptional opportunities for Agawam as well as for our Sister City, Reggio Calabria."

SCOTT M. HIBBERT

Attorney at Law

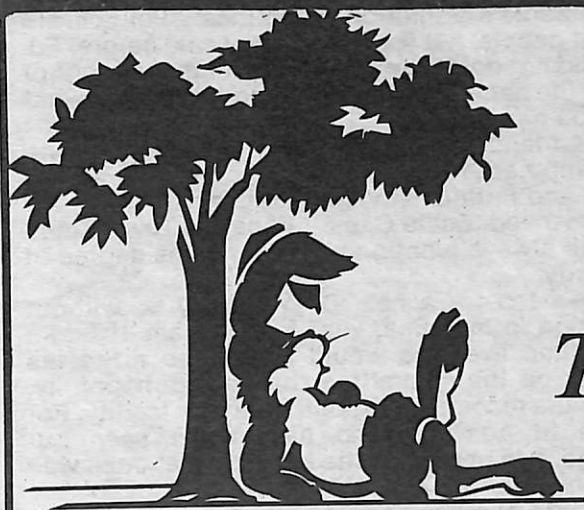
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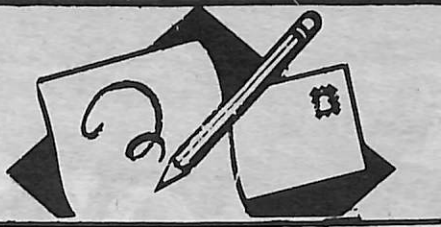
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Letters To The Editor

Some Controversy Regarding Junior Women's Spelling Bee

To The Editor:

This letter is concerning the recent Spelling Bee sponsored by the Junior Women's Club of Agawam that took place on March 31st. We would just like to remind the judges that the number one issue when dealing with children in this age group must be to ensure that their confidence and self-esteem is maintained.

The handling of a situation after a judge misunderstood the pronunciation of a letter and disqualified a contestant was unfortunate. As the contestant was leaving the stage, the lady who was helping her off asked her to repeat the spelling of the word because she obviously thought the word was spelled correctly. The contestant repeated the spelling of the word correctly, exactly as she had been asked to spell the word by the moderator.

During the protest that followed, a tape recording of the spelling was listened to, after which the audience erupted into loud applause, assuming the contestant would be allowed to continue. What followed next was inappropriate because the contestant was asked directly by one of the judges to repeat the spelling of the word, which she again did correctly.

Not allowing the contestant to continue at that point suggests the judge was calling her a liar. The judges continued to listen to the tape several more times. Then the head judge said rudely that the audience was not the 'judge,' she was, and concluded her decision to disqualify the contestant would stand.

Later that evening, we watched our video recording of the contest, and it was conclusive beyond any doubt that the word in question was spelled correctly.

The point of this whole controversy should be very clear. Children at this age can be delicate emotionally, and more harm than good can result by embarrassing them and implying that they have lied. While this is a competition, the judges should always give the children the benefit of the doubt.

Ken & Maria Goodman
Agawam

Former AHS Hoop Player Has Words Of Praise For Conte

To The Editor:

I couldn't agree more with Mr. Shannon's letter. You will have to forgive me for the delayed response. I currently live in Florida, so I receive *The Advertiser* a few weeks later. But after reading the letter, it prompted me to respond.

I played for Mr. Conte a few years ago (we won't say how many) and yet things I have learned from him, I still apply to my daily life. Playing for Mr. Conte was a privilege I was fortunate enough to have. Day after day, I would enter the gym for practice feeling ready to go, just to leave, knowing that I could conquer anything and everything life had to offer me (I mean to survive one of his practices was quite an accomplishment - especially those three-minute runs).

All joking aside, he made me believe in myself not only as an athlete, but as a person, a friend, a daughter, a sister. He taught me how to carry myself, respecting others for what they had and didn't have, as well as for who they were. He taught me to be ever so thankful for what I have and to "go home and kiss your mother and father when you go to sleep and tell them you love them." (I still do and always will.)

During my years under Coach Conte, many lessons were learned. These lessons I carry with me wherever I go. I am a better person having had the honor of playing for him. The passion he expresses for the love the game and the love of his players and students is like no other; it's contagious. The commitment and support he demonstrates to the athletic and academic programs in Agawam have a uniqueness of their own. His genuine presence alone shows you this.

I want to thank him for all he has done for me and I know I speak for many other players and students whose lives he has touched. Thanks for everything, coach! Some of the best memories I carry with me come straight from that gym.

Stephanie Mason
Former AHS Hoop Player
North Bay Village, Florida

Inadequacies/Errors In Six Flags' Notice Of Proj. Change

To The Editor:

Letter To The Residents Of Agawam:

On May 6, 2000, Agawam will become the home of the new "Six Flags New England." Agawam has always been proud to be identified far and wide as the home of Riverside Park. Home to "Six Flags New England" will make Agawam known worldwide.

Premier Parks has worked cooperatively with the Town since its purchase of the Park, and the Town has been able to incorporate the Park's growth with relatively few "growing pains."

Recently, the Town received the Notice of Project Change for Six Flags New England, an environmental documents prepared in conformance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), which outlines Premier Parks' Master Plan for the Park. Briefly, the Master Plan proposes to remove all parking on the east side of Main Street to allow for the expansion of the Park amusements and the moving and expansion of parking on the west side of Main Street.

Through MEPA, the Town of Agawam, its residents, and State and regional agencies can review Premier Parks plans and provide comments to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The Town of Agawam retained the services of a consultant to review some of the data provided in the document. The remainder of the report was reviewed by Agawam's professional staff. Public comments on the Notice of Project Change were due and submitted on March 14, 2000.

On March 24, 2000, the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Bob Durand, issued his decision on the Notice of Project Change. The Decision reads, "I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and hereby determine that it **does not require further environmental review.**"

The Town of Agawam's review has identified a number of inadequacies and errors in the Notice of Project Change. The Town hopes that all possible impacts regarding traffic and water and sewer usage will be fully addressed prior to the completion of Six Flags New England.

In an attempt to have Agawam's traffic concerns addressed, Senator Melconian, Representative Keenan, and I will be meeting with the State Highway Department, who will be responsible for issuing highway permits for Six Flags' build-out.

It is our hope that the cordial and cooperative relationship that has existed with Premier Parks will continue, and that together we can do everything necessary to ensure that our wonderful community and the quality of life we enjoy will remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cohen, Mayor
Town of Agawam
Robert Campbell, Chief
Agawam Police Department
James Daley, Town Engineer
John P. Stone, Superintendent
Department of Public Works
Deborah S. Dachos, Director
Office of Planning and Comm. Dev.
David Pisano, Chief
Agawam Fire Department
Dominic Urbinati, Inspector of Buildings

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CABA - from Page 1...

With that, he started talking about the times he had spent with my father and plans they worked on 15 years ago. He never lost his vision for what he wanted to do; he still had that enthusiasm. I said, "I will be up to see you," and he said, "Don't bother. I will see you when I get home Wednesday or Thursday."

Eddie Caba was a man who touched many of us, and I hope that some of our appreciation for what Eddie has done can help in bringing some degree of peace to his family and his wife, Margie.

This morning, at the service, Eddie's granddaughter spoke very eloquently about her grandfather and the way he felt about Agawam. She gave Eddie's definition of politics: "Politics are about people, not the press." As I said before, Eddie did not do or say anything with the thought of what the paper was going to report. He cared what friends had to say.

His friends said a lot today. You will be long remembered. Your job was well done. You were a good and faithful servant for Agawam.

Godspeed, Eddie Caba. I hope the Town Council will always function with your same degree of integrity.

The need for a new DPW facility is, without question in my mind, vital for Agawam. If Eddie Caba had lived, he would have been a tireless worker on the committee that would, hopefully, make the recommendations for a new facility. For those in Agawam who have never seen our garage, it is housed in the building that once was the home for the AGAWAM GIN DISTILLERY.

Eddie Caba has done as much or more for the town of Agawam as any person I can think of. It is still early in the process, but I would like to put forward that our new DPW facility be named in memory of Edward A. Caba.

Ag. School Comm. Agenda For Reg. Mtg. Of Tues., April 11th

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Citizens' Speak Time
4. Roll Call of Attendance
5. Superintendent's Notes
6. Highlight on Education:
HS Breathalyzer/Smoking Demo
7. Old Business
 - a. SCROO-16: Proposed Expansion of Full-School Day Kindergarten Program
 - b. SCROO-17: Goals for Full-School Day Kindergarten
8. Business Meeting:
 - a. Routine Matters
 - 1) Approval of Minutes
 - 2) Calendar/Correspondence
 - b. Warrants/Transfers
 - c. Reports
9. FY 2001 Budget Review
10. New Business:
 - a. SCROO-18: Adoption of District School Improvement Plan (Goals & Objectives)
11. Any other action which may legally come before the Committee
12. Adjournment



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS (U.S.P.S.-001-170) is published weekly for \$24.50 per year by PAG Publications, Inc., 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0263. Second class postage is paid at F.H., MA 01030 & at associated offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Agawam Advertiser News, P.O. Box 263, F.H., MA 01030-0263.

From Melconian's Office...

Mandating Coverage Of FDA-Approved Contraceptives

Senate Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is proud to announce the Senate passage of legislation that mandates insurers cover all contraceptives that have been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Melconian was one of the leading co-sponsors of the legislation.

"Contraceptive coverage is the most important health issue for women from 15 to 50," said Melconian. "It affects their jobs, their marriage, their sense of self-worth, every aspect of their lives. It is an outrage that it requires legislative action to provide such a basic health service."

With the passage of this legislation, Massachusetts would join 10 other states, including Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maine, that have already required comprehensive contraceptive coverage by insurers. There are more than 900,000 women of child-bearing age in the Commonwealth.

Lack of contraceptive coverage is a serious problem nationally. More than 49 percent of typical large group family plans and seven percent of HMOs do not cover any contraceptive coverage. Because of this lack of coverage, women pay an average of 68 percent (approx. \$7,000 to \$10,000 over their lifetime) more than men in out-of-pocket medical expenses, much of it for contraception.

The Senate passed legislation would mandate that insurers cover the most common forms of birth control, including the pill, IUDs, diaphragms, norplant insertion, and depo provera injection. The bill further requires insurers to cover hormone replacement therapy necessary for fertility treatments and to help post-menopausal women maintain bone density. The bill also contains a conscience clause that exempts churches and church controlled organizations from having to provide this coverage to their employees.

"The social and medical dangers of pregnancy are undisputed," said Melconian. "They include death, serious physical harm, the emotional trauma of adoption or abortion, and the huge financial, mental, and physical costs of raising a child. These problems can be prevented with a simple pill or injection. The fact is that insurers have refused to provide these necessary medicines in too many cases. When private industry refuses to take responsible steps to meet a public need, the legislature has no choice but to act."

The legislation now awaits action in the House of Representatives.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Veterans' Corner...

by Ruth C. Bitzas
Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

Memorial Day Plans Are In The Works

The Agawam Veterans' Council is busy planning the Memorial Day Parade, which will be held on Monday, May 29th. Once again, we will have the Springfield Kilty Band, and back again this year will be the Suez Temple Drum and Drill team.

Also, Mr. Al Peckham of Agawam, last year's recipient of the French Croix de Guerre with Palm Unit Citation for action in WWII and a member of the Melha Shrine Drum Corps, advised our office of their desire to be a part of the Agawam parade this year. We are looking forward to having them with us for this special event.

Also, Mr. Louis Massoia has accepted our invitation to serve as Honorary Parade Marshal. Lou is a Korean War veteran and will give an address on his Korean War service.

Our Memorial Day observance will be our first event honoring Korean War veterans for the 50th anniversary of that war. Agawam has been approved by the Department of Defense as a designated Commemorative Community for the 50th anniversary period. Many other events will follow. The Veterans' Council and committee will be planning all of the future events to honor these very special veterans.

"The United States, North Korea, and China signed an armistice on July 27, 1953 which ends the war but fails to bring about a permanent peace. To date, the Republic of Korea (South) and Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North) have not signed a peace treaty. A total of 33,651 service members died in battle during the Korean War; 27,709 U.S. Army; 4,269 U.S. Marines; 1,198 U.S. Air Force; 475 U.S. Navy; and 140 service members became prisoners of war." (Source: <http://Korea50.army.mil/history/timeline> 1953.)

This week, we are publishing the list of Agawam Vietnam War veterans whose last names begin with the letter "B" and who will be on our town's Honor Roll.

AGAWAM VIETNAM VETERANS — "B"

BAKER, ALEXANDER B., JR.
BAKER, CHARLES R.
BALBONI, KENNETH G.
BALBONI, RAYMOND L.
BARBERO, EMILE J.
BARNARD, DAVID J.
BARNES, ROBERT N.
BARTOLUCCI, THOMAS P.
BARTSCHI, KENNETH J.
BARUFALDI, DANIEL J.
BAUMANN, WILLIAM W.
BEGLEY, GARY P.
BEIGERT, WILLIAM H.
BELDEN, MONTAGUE K.
BELISLE, FRANCIS J., JR.
BELISLE, JAMES P.

BELOVITZ, RONALD T.
BENJAMIN, ROLAND E.
BENOIT, PAUL P.
BENIOT, RICHARD E.
BENIOT, VIVIAN C.
BENSON, JOHN H.
BERGER, WAYNE J.
BERTERA, GARY C.
BERTHIAUME, ROBERT F.
BERTRAND, ROBERT P.
BESAW, THOMAS N.
BEWES, DALE R.
BILODEAU, PHILIP C.
BITGOOD, JOHN J.
BIUSO, JOHN M.
BLANCHARD, LIONEL W.
BLACK, JAMES O.
BLAISDELL, PHILLIP J., JR.
BLEEK, FREDA M.
BLEW, WILLIAM J.
BODMAN, DOUGLAS W.
BOISSONNEAULT, DAVID F.
BOISVERT, HENRY J., JR.
BOLGER, LEE F.
BONOMI, RICHARD B.
BOOTH, RICHARD E.
BOTELHO, RICHARD E.
* BOROWIEC, EDWARD
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BROWN, ROGER N.
BRUCE, ROBERT J.
BRUNEAU, DAVID G.
BRYANT, PAULA M.
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BUCK, DONALD L.
BUDER, LINDA J.
BULLOCK, WILLIE N., JR.
BUONICONTI, FRANK A., JR.
BURTON, JEFFREY K.
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BUSHEY, JON M.
BUSHEY, CHESTER R.
BUSHEY, PETER F.
BUTMAN, GORDON H., JR.
BYE, HENRY V.
BYORECK, RICHARD L.
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After 18 Years Of Service...

Ruth C. Bitzas Retires As Veterans Agent

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Ruth C. Bitzas, director/agent for the Western Massachusetts District since September 7, 1982, admits she is saddened at her decision to retire. "It was time," she said, from her Agawam Town Hall office. She and her husband will travel to visit their youngest son, Steven, and his wife, Elizabeth, in San Antonio, Texas. They'll take an apartment there for several months and visit with their grandchildren, Amanda (10), David (7), Josiah (4), and Daniel (1½).

Upon her return to Agawam, Ruth plans to work on the Veterans' Honor Roll and the State Veterans' Cemetery on Main Street. This is good news, because otherwise, she would be too greatly missed. She will continue to generate her quiet warmth and concern. She's been asked to form a group of volunteer greeters to meet with grieving families or show people around and familiarize them with the chapel, the administration building, and the cemetery itself.

Always in attendance at ceremonies to honor veterans, such as Memorial Day, Patriots' Day, and Veterans' Day, Ruth has managed to maintain a disciplined and immaculate appearance while emanating genuine love and respect for veterans and their families. She has been there for them both in joy and in sorrow.

She gave this statement about her experience as a veterans' agent: "I have had the unique opportunity of working with hundreds of district veterans and they shared with me the crisis they were experiencing. I would listen and help them to be calm, always advising that there is a 'light at the end of the tunnel.' I would then set out to find solutions to their problems."

She said that she assisted "with a mother's heart." As she thinks over the people she has been able to help, tears often come to her eyes. This has been much more than a job for Ruth Bitzas. For her, and for her assistant, Dianne Moreau, it has been a way to help people.

A Substantial Accomplishment...

Ruth takes pride in the substantial accomplishment of having won a total of \$4,622,127.01 for individual cases through the Department of Veterans' Affairs during her 18 years as director. "This is one of the largest Veterans' Administration Summary Awards."

"Obtaining federal benefits for our veterans was a direct savings to district towns and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts because in many cases, the federal monies — instead of Chapter 115 — went directly into the pockets of veterans," she said.

She has kept a copy of a retroactive check in the amount of \$92,000 in her desk to remind herself that, "If we have truth on our side and present our case properly, we can win for veterans." This check was the result of a case of a service-related disability endured by a veteran that went to appeal in Washington, D.C., she explained.

After five ongoing years of remands, the veteran eventually received his benefits at 100-percent rate for life. "I felt great satisfaction in knowing that my efforts had something to do with that," said Ruth.

"Another case I remember from my earliest days on the job, when a terminal cancer patient applied for VA widow pension benefits. I gathered all the evidence I could and, much to my surprise, the VA approved her pension and gave her the additional benefit called 'Aid and Attendance of another person.' The sense of satisfaction that you have made that kind of difference for another human being is difficult to describe."

As an airman second class, she served in the United States Air Force for three years at the end of the Korean War and the beginning of the Vietnam era. She was honorably discharged, and then attended St. John the Baptist School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Her territory as veterans' agent includes

Agawam, Southwick, Granville, and Tolland. John McCarthy preceded Ruth the previous 10 years.

She has been married to Harry Bitzas since August 1984. She is the mother of Kurt R. Fields of Southwick, Lynne Stapleton, also of Southwick, Gary Fields of Otis, and Steven Fields of San Antonio, Texas. She also has one stepson, James Bitzas of Westfield. She has nine grandchildren and three step-grandchildren as well.

She has served as president of the Western Massachusetts Service Officers' Association, 1988-1989 and 1992-1993. She was the 1994 recipient of the "Dan Watson Award for Outstanding Service to Massachusetts Veterans," and she was selected and presented by former Massachusetts Commissioner of Veterans' Services Thomas Hudner the "Congressional Medal of Honor."

Top Veterans' Agent In MA In 1999...

Ruth was named Top Veterans' Agent in the Commonwealth for 1999 by the Massachusetts Veterans' Service Officers' Association. Her accomplishments shed some light on why she was chosen for this distinction. She was chairwoman of the Agawam Veterans' War Memorial, dedicated May 27, 1989 at Agawam Veterans' Green.

She was responsible for the dedication of a Civil War Plaque, researched at Military Archives, Adjutant Generals' Eight Volumes. Dedication: Memorial Day, May 28, 1990. She raised funds for a gazebo on Veterans' Green, dedicated on May 31, 1993. The Memorial Bench Program was administered through her office, arranging for the erecting of 72 Memorial Benches throughout the town of Agawam, from 1992-1994.

Ruth arranged for the V-J Day Vigil Mass at St. John's Church "In Happy Remembrance of the 50th Anniversary of the Victorious End of World War II." All veterans in attendance wore their military medals. Ruth planned a reunion dinner for the crew of the U.S.S. Agawam AOG-6 at The Oaks Banquet House on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 1996.

She also had Agawam designated as a "Commemorative Community for the 50th Anniversary Period of 1991-1995 for World War II." And when Agawam farmer Edward Squazza came to the Veterans' Office and offered his property on Main Street for the State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, it was Ruth who set up meetings for the siting company to view the property. She provided all necessary maps and other documents to encourage the state to choose Agawam over the Westover/Chicopee area.

The announcement by the State Commissioner of Veterans' Services selecting Agawam came at a luncheon held at VFW Post 1631. The dedication is planned for the fall of 2000. And Ruth and Dianne (her administrative assistant) tackled the Honor Roll Project, which has spanned the past five years, with the Veterans' Council and Honor Roll committee researching files in the Agawam Veterans' Office and the War Records Department, Boston, for all home of record veterans who served on active duty during a wartime era.

The Honor Roll will include Agawam Revolutionary veterans, Civil War veterans, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam War veterans. According to Ruth, "We have raised over \$35,000, and will be looking for matching funds though the Town of Agawam to erect the Honor Roll."

The greatest compliment Ruth recalls was from a Vietnam veteran who had many problems. "I had a habit of asking how vets heard of our office. He related how he had so many problems and couldn't handle them and was over in Springfield ... telling his story to someone and they said to him, 'Go over and see that lady in the veterans' office in Agawam; she helps people.' That made my day!" said Ruth.

Without fail, Ruth has sent in a column every

week for the readers of *The Agawam Advertiser-News*. Sometimes the column lists names for the Honor Roll, and there have been heartwrenching stories of some acts of heroism. Other times, her articles were about the sinking of a ship and the military's hush-up of the facts.

"I always liked to help people, and this job basically consists of many situations where help is needed. It seems natural for me. I have been there to help people. I handled a case for a widow whose husband had lung cancer. His symptoms began as shoulder pain; he told me about it, but when I say his records, it didn't look promising."

"So I asked about his Vietnam experience. He told me that one night when the soldiers went to sleep, the trees had leaves; and, when they woke up, the trees were bare. I suggested that we file a compensation claim, even though lung cancer was not one of the conditions attributed to Agent Orange. We put the claim in, anyway."

"The man died, but I heard about a year after his death that the Veterans' Administration had added lung cancer to the list of conditions caused by Agent Orange. And, because we had opened a claim while he was still living, the claim was reopened and his death was considered service-connected," she said.

Ruth continued, "I was able to file for D.I.C. (Dependents Indemnity Compensation) for his widow (\$870 a month for life, unless she remarries). His two sons would be eligible for educational benefits to age 23, including college. This was a very emotional success story. She was a young widow."

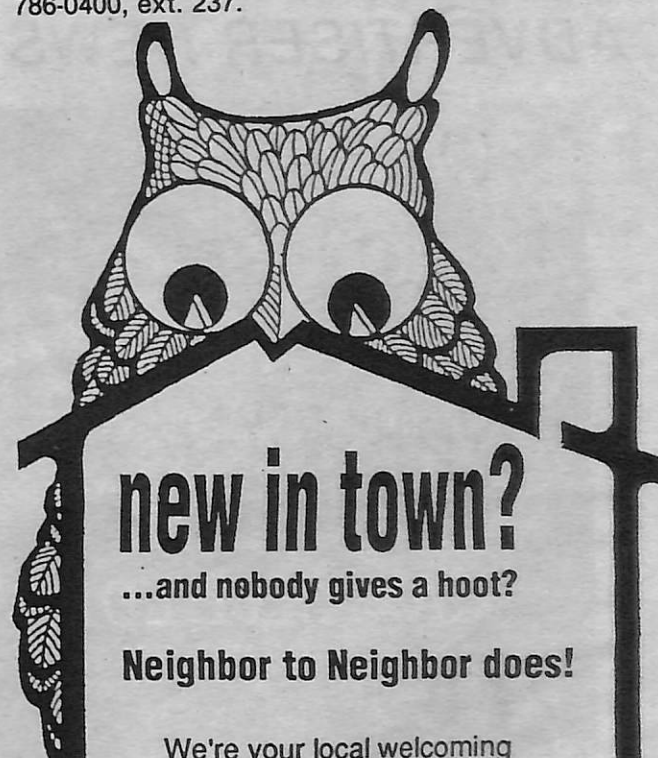
Praising Her Administrative Assistant...

"Dianne is an outstanding worker. She is an asset to the Town of Agawam. We work so well together because we both have the same heart for veterans. Dianne will still be a part of the office, and she is a wonderful person to work with."

In 1989 and 1994, Ruth obtained a total of \$12,000 for her district to raise sunken markers of veterans in all Agawam cemeteries, and she had all of the older veterans' monuments power-washed.

A testimonial dinner and dance in honor of Ruth Carr Bitzas will be held on May 6th at The Oaks, 1070 Suffield Street, Agawam. Cocktails will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and dinner will be at 7:15 p.m. Donations are \$30 per person.

For ticket information, please contact Dianne Moreau, Department of Veterans' Services, at 786-0400, ext. 237.



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— Agawam Obituaries —

Edward L. Brown

Edward L. Brown, 58, of 68 Pheasant Run Circle, Feeding Hills, died Tuesday, April 4th, at home. He was a district manager for the Springfield Union-News for 10 years.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he lived in the Agawam/Feeding Hills area for 24 years.

He was a coach for the Pioneer Valley soccer team, a former member of the Polish-American Club in Feeding Hills, and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He leaves four daughters, Vanessa Ghidoni and Erin L. Brown, both of Agawam, Daryl L. Greeson of Gulfport, Florida, and Meaghan Brown of Feeding Hills; his mother, Stephanie (Osowski) Brown of Hartford; a brother, Steven of Gulfport; two sisters, Joyce Brown of Hartford and Beverly Brown of St. Petersburg, Florida; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday morning, April 8th, at the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery. There are no calling hours, and Agawam Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Agawam High School Soccer Booster Club, in care of Joanne Taylor, 11 White Oaks Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or the Hospice of the Pioneer Valley, 50 Maple Street, Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Ronald A. Quatrone

Ronald A. Quatrone, 52, of 75 Pleasant Valley Road, died recently in Baystate Medical Center. Born in Springfield, he lived all his life in Feeding Hills.

He was a tractor trailer driver for Supervalu Foods (formerly Sweetlife) in Suffield, Connecticut. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Mawaga Club. He was a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

He leaves his wife, Nancy (Monroe) Quatrone, and a son, Christian M. Quatrone of Agawam.

The funeral was from the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, followed by a Mass in the church. Burial was in Springfield Street Cemetery.

James H. Chandler

James H. Chandler, 78, of 126 Belmont Avenue, West Springfield, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a retired vice-president of sales for Spartan Division of Armstrong & Blum Co. of Agawam. After retirement in 1979, he moved to Cal Shasta, California, where he owned and operated Osheim Industrial Supply Co. He returned to West Springfield in 1997.

Born in Pittsfield, he grew up in Lee and lived in West Springfield and Agawam most of his life.

He was a World War II Navy veteran and was a medic assigned to the 3rd Marine Division. He was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, an Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two stars, and a letter of commendation from the Chief of Navy Personnel.

He was a past president of the Isaac Walton League of Massachusetts and a charter member of the Mawaga Club in Agawam.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, the former Janette D. Porter; two daughters, Sharon L. Chandler of Las Vegas and Susan Chandler Kohlieber of Lake Havasu City, Arizona; a sister, Mary Butler of Pennsylvania; and a grandson.

The funeral was held at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home and Immaculate Conception Church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01040.

Josephine A. McKinnon

Josephine A. (McIsaac) McKinnon, 76, of 41 Arnold Street, Feeding Hills, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a sales clerk at the former Forbes & Wallace department stores for many years until they closed in 1974. She also worked at Holyoke Card for three years.

Born in Boston, she lived in Springfield before moving to Feeding Hills 12 years ago. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

Her husband, George N. McKinnon, died in 1962.

She leaves two daughters, Marilyn T. Remillard of Feeding Hills and Linda L. Long of Longmeadow; two sisters, Mary M. Abegg of Holyoke and

Annie L. Bina of Bellingham; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home in Agawam and in the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mount St. Vincent Home, Holy Family Road, Holyoke, MA 01040, or the Joslin Diabetes Center, 1 Joslin Place, Boston, MA 02215.

Gregory K. Barrows

Gregory K. Barrows, 38, of 31 Highland Street, Feeding Hills, died recently in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was employed by Wood Group Fuel Systems in East Windsor, CT, as a repair and process development engineer.

Born in Washington, D.C., he lived in Shirley and Lowell before moving to Feeding Hills in 1996.

He was educated in Shirley and was a 1979 graduate of Ayer High School. He was also a graduate of Middlesex Community College and East Coast Aero Tech.

He served with the Army as a law enforcement drug patrol dog handler from 1980 to 1983.

He was a member of the Widler Masonic Lodge in Leominster, a member of the Lowell Scottish Rite, and a Shriner.

He was president of the Agawam Youth Football League.

He leaves his wife, the former Sandra E. Callahan; four sons, Joshua K., Jacob G., Thomas P., and Daniel E. Barrows, all at home; his mother, Velma (VanSice) Barrows of Shirley; two brothers, Philip F. Jr. of Cortland, New York, and Michael G. of Watertown, New York; two sisters, Kathleen Schaeffer of Shirley and Stephanie Barrows of Houston, Texas; and his grandmother, Christine VanSice of Interlaken, New York.

The funeral was held at Agawam Baptist Church, with burial at the convenience of the family. A memorial service was also held at St. Francis Church in Dracut. Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Agawam Youth Football League, in care of Westfield Bank, 141 Elm Street, Box 1265, Westfield, MA 01086, or to the Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 8...

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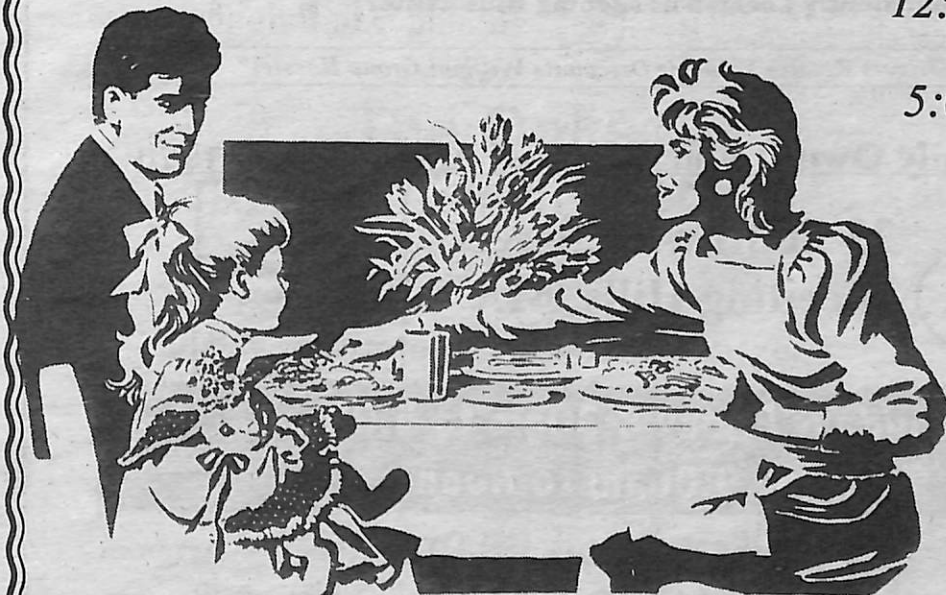
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OBITUARIES - from Page 7...

Richard F. Seymour, Sr.

Richard F. Seymour, Sr., 45, of 775 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Springfield, he lived in Springfield and West Springfield before moving to Feeding Hills.

He was a truck driver for various companies, a former member of the Adriatic Club, and a Navy veteran of the Vietnam era.

He leaves six sons, Richard F. Jr. of Feeding Hills, Paul R. of Agawam, Mark A. of Westfield, Brad A. and Steven M., both of Feeding Hills, and Adam M. of Chicopee; two daughters, Amanda J. Seymour and April E. Seymour, both of Chicopee; his mother, Alice (Wood) Seymour of Suffield; two brothers, Frederick Seymour of Windsor Locks, CT, and Gerald R. Seymour of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; a stepbrother, Robert Wenzloff of Windham, CT; four sisters, Diana I. Maxwell of Bradford, Vermont, Sandra M. Armitage of Myrtle Beach, Jean C. Fornwalt of Bradford, and Barbara N. Landry of Oneota, New York; his former wife, Patricia Palmer of Chicopee; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Agawam Funeral Home, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Katherine J. Wrenn

Katherine Josephine (Phelan) Wrenn, 89, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

Born and schooled in Brooklyn, New York, she lived in Springfield most of her life before moving to Agawam.

She was a former communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Springfield and a former member of the Senior Club of Holy Cross Church and the Over-60 Club at Sacred Heart Church. She also belonged to the Springfield Hobby Club.

Her husband, George F. Wrenn, died in 1976.

She leaves a daughter, Elizabeth Quinn of West Springfield; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and Sacred Heart Church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, both in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Dora A. LaFromboise

Dora Ann (Recor) LaFromboise, 86, of 1260 Main Street, Agawam, died recently at Noble Hospital in Westfield.

Born in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield, she lived in Springfield for many years and on Cady Street, Ludlow, for 15 years before moving to Agawam 13 years ago.

Her husband, Ozea M. LaFromboise, died in 1982.

She leaves a son, George of Monson; three daughters, Mildred Fountain of Agawam, Dorothy Johnson of Feeding Hills, and Gloria Shover of Ludlow; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral and burial were scheduled to be private and at the convenience of the family. Ratell Funeral Home of Indian Orchard was in charge of the arrangements.

Merrill A. Jenks

Merrill A. Jenks, 63, of 1400 State Street, Springfield, died recently at Olympus Specialty Hospital.

He worked at Merriam-Graves Corp.

He was born in Agawam and lived there most of his life.

He leaves his former wife, the former Shirley A. Cote, and a son, Donald A. Booth, both of West Springfield.

The funeral was scheduled to be private and at the convenience of the family. West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Merrill O. Tisdell

Merrill O. Tisdell, 85, of Paul Revere Drive, Feeding Hills, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a 32-year salesman for C.P. Payson Co. and retired in 1980. He worked previously at the former Chapman Valve Co for 13 years.

Born in Agawam, he moved to Feeding Hills in 1979.

He was a graduate of Agawam High School, a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, and a member of the Mawaga Sporting Club, the Golden Agers, and the Pheasant Hill Village Social Club.

He leaves his wife, the former Ellen M. Ross; two sons, Merrill Jr. of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Jeffrey of East Longmeadow; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Nancy J. Scala

Nancy J. Scala, 48, of 1189 River Road, Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a registered nurse for a local nursing home and previously worked in the ICCU at Baystate Medical Center. She had also worked for Western Union in Washington, D.C., where she had lived for nine years.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Agawam most of her life.

She was a 1969 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1994 graduate of Springfield Technical Community College with degree in nursing, where she graduated in the top of her class.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer, she did extensive research for the Dana Farber Institute in Boston and founded the Community Cancer Support Center, Main Street, Agawam. Television station WGGB aired a special in 1996 on her cancer diagnosis and the work she was involved in.

She leaves her father, Salvatore Scala; her mother, Mary (Grasso) Scala of Feeding Hills; a brother, James M. Scala, and a niece, Jaime Scala, both of Feeding Hills.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial to be held in Agawam Center Cemetery at a later date.

Charles R. Jones

Charles R. Jones, 62, of 15 Sutton Place, Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a 16-year truck driver for Waste Management of South Hadley.

Born in Joplin, Missouri, he was an Air Force veteran and lived in the Springfield area since 1977.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ and the Blue Angels Motorcycle Club, both in Springfield.

He leaves his wife, the former Linder King of Agawam; a daughter, Yolanda McCormick of Springfield; four stepsons, Jeffrey R. King, Wayne D. King, and Anthony L. King, all of Springfield, and Darryl V. King of Raleigh, North Carolina; four brothers, George Jones of Boston and Richard Jones, Richard Alexander, and Rudy Wedderburn, all of Springfield; and three sisters, Betty Dawkins, Laverne Jackson, and Deidra Dickson, all of Springfield.

The funeral was held at the church, with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Henderson Funeral Home of Springfield was in charge of the arrangements.

Alice Bubien Chatel

Alice Bubien Chatel, 80, of Giffin Place, Agawam, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She worked last at Digital Computer Co. of Westfield. She was previously a 25-year machinist at Springfield Wire Co.

Born in Springfield, she was a lifelong Agawam resident, a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church, and a Golden Ager.

Her first husband, Wallace T. Bubien, died in 1967, and her husband, Albert Chatel, in 1974.

She leaves two sons, Stanley C. Bubien of Houston and Wallace J. Bubien of Kansas City, Missouri; a sister, Angeline Nicora of North Agawam; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home of West Springfield and the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 74 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Edward A. Caba

Edward A. Caba, 74, of Walnut Street, Agawam, died Thursday, March 30th, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was born and brought up in Westfield, and had lived in Agawam most of his life.

He was employed at Mass. State Auditor's Office for many years. Prior to involvement in Agawam city government, he was a foreman at Southworth Paper Co. for many years.

He served as Agawam's town clerk for almost 20 years, and after that he served as the town manager for Agawam in the early 1980's.

He served on the Agawam City Council for over 14 years and was formerly the council president. He was an Agawam Town Meeting member for many years.

He was voted "Man of the Year" by both the UNICO Club (1980) and the Agawam Polish-American Club.

He was a WWII U.S. Navy veteran and served in the Pacific Theater.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in West Springfield.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 9...

Rejean J. Remillard

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OBITUARIES - from Page 8...

He leaves his wife of 54 years, the former Marjorie G. West; a son, Edward A. Caba, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina; two daughters, Cheryl L. Polopek of Mission Viejo, California, and Lucille M. Suprenant of Winchester, Massachusetts; two brothers, Richard of California and William of Westfield; two sisters, June Lehrer and Amelia Smarse, both of Westfield; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandson.

The funeral was held on Monday morning, April 3rd, at Grace Lutheran Church and at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home, both in West Springfield, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery in Agawam.

Memorial donations may be made to the Edward A. Caba Memorial Fund, c/o Gail Nichols, Westfield Bank, 206 Park Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Frederick A. Flood

Frederick A. Flood, 56, of Agawam, died recently at his home.

Born in Long Island City, New York, he was a graduate of New City High School and Sienna College. He also attended Salem State College.

He lived in Georgetown, MA, and Peabody, MA, before moving to Agawam in 1983.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 20, 2000 at 7:15 PM at the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Alfred Pajer for a proposed zone change. The proposal is to rezone approximately 8.5 acres of land at the corner of Suffield and Cooper Streets from Business A and Residence A-2 to all Business A.

BY ORDER OF:
Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board

Published: April 6, 2000

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



*Testimonial
Dinner & Dance*

in honor of

Ruth Carr Bitzas

Veterans' Agent

Saturday, May 6th

6 To 7 P.M. - Cocktails

7:15 P.M. - Dinner

At...

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Agawam**

For ticket information, please contact:

**Diane Moreau
Dept. of Veterans' Services
(413) 786-0400, Ext. 237**

Donation: \$30.00 per person



He was a revenue officer for the Internal Revenue Service for 17 years, and retired in 1998 due to declining health. He was also a supply sergeant at Westover Air Force Reserve Base in Chicopee for 22 years.

He was a communicant of Saint John the Evangelist Church, a member of the Lionel Train Club, the Agawam American Legion, the Polish Legion of American Veterans of Chicopee Post No. 463, the Knights of Columbus of Agawam, a life member of the National Rifle Association, and the Air Force Association.

He was retired from the United States Air Force Reserves, where he attained the rank of master sergeant.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Ann (Hawreluke) Flood; a son, Erich A. Flood, at home; a brother, Charles of San Francisco, California; a sister, Selma Jones of Pearl River, New York; his mother-in-law, Sophie Hawreluke of Peabody; two nieces; and a nephew.

A brother, Frank Flood, predeceased him in 1986.

Funeral services were held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial followed in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the World War II Memorial Fund, American Battle Monuments Commission, P.O. Box 98147, Washington, D.C., 20090-8147.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, April 13th at 7:10 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Vermette for property at 223 Garden Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: April 6, 2000

*Best local news
with us...*

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**Heritage Hall East Center
Genesis Eldercare Network
464 Main Street
Agawam, MA
(413) 786-8000**

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct a triennial accreditation survey of this organization on April 11-14, 2000. The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

**Division of Accreditation Operations
Organization Liaison
Join Commission on Accreditation
of Healthcare Organizations
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

This notice is posted in accordance with the Joint Commission's requirements.

Published: April 6, 2000

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- **Friday** — bring in a roll of film to be processed (color 35mm, 110mm) and receive **\$1 off 12 exp., \$2 off 24 exp., \$3 off 36 exp.** (not to be combined with any offers or coupons / 1-hr. service only).

371 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam

Offer Ends June 17th



Families

Lioness Donation



JOANN MCGEOGHAN (left), co-president of the Agawam Lioness Club, presents a check on behalf of the club to Candy Boucher, Executive Director of the Parish Cupboard. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Agawam Lioness To Hold Ziti & Meatball Supper

The Agawam Lioness will be holding their Annual Ziti & Meatball Supper on April 13th.

The dinner will be at the Lion's Den, Big E grounds, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The meatballs are homemade by the Lioness.

Cost for adults is \$5 and \$2.50 for children. Tickets may be purchased through any member of the Lioness Club or at the door.

For more information, call Joann McGeoghan at 786-1982.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick St. (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030...

All the hometown news with us... Advertiser News!!!

Parish Cupboard's "March Match" Fundraiser Exceeds Its \$20,000 Goal

"The supporters of the Parish Cupboard have come through again," said Candy Boucher, Executive Director of the Parish Cupboard (formerly known as the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry), which is located at 1023 Main Street, West Springfield.

On Thursday, April 6th (presstime), Boucher was scheduled to join others in the profession of feeding and clothing the poor in submitting a total of all contributions brought in during the month of March to Alan Shawn Feinstein of Providence, Rhode Island.

"Our letter to the Feinstein Foundation will ask for a match on \$21,582.10 from his \$1,000,000 pledged," said Boucher. This year's goal for the "March Match" was \$20,000.

"The total of \$21,582.10 is a lot of money," she stated, adding, "This place runs on love."

Boucher explained that other organizations receive state or federal funding, or grants from the United Way campaigns, for operational expenses. "The people of Western Massachusetts, and a few who have moved away, support the work of the Parish Cupboard."

The Parish Cupboard receives funds from the United Way only if individuals designate them specifically.

"It is so hard to begin to thank people publicly, and many just don't do it," said Boucher. "But we must make mention of the 173 individuals who sent envelopes back from our newsletter, bringing in \$7,383; the 48 businesses that have contributed \$8,899 to our advertising effort thus far; and a 'thank you' to the people who gave a contribution in their churches that totaled \$5,300.10."

Boucher also expressed thanks to, "Old Colony Envelope of Westfield, which donated 10,000 envelopes for our church effort, and Trade Press of West Springfield which printed them free of charge."

The Parish Cupboard takes pride in being a net-

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

work of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Funds from the "March Match" assist the Parish Cupboard in meeting the real needs of the people of Agawam, Feeding Hills, West Springfield, and beyond.

"We can count on our neighbors like the Agawam firefighters, who were the first to sign on in our Advertising Partnership for the year 2000. We are blessed with neighbors like the Eastern States Exposition and Six Flags New England, which care as much about feeding people as they do entertaining people," said Boucher.

"The businesses in the Merrick section of town — and beyond — really care," she continued. Any businesses which have yet to sign on as Business Partners with the Parish Cupboard may do so by contacting Boucher at 734-7969. The deadline for the first publication of these business partners is April 15th.

The Parish Cupboard has been receiving donations for the purchase of a new stove. Gifts from the West Springfield Lions Club and the West Springfield Parish and Interfaith Association were earmarked for the purchase of a commercial-style, six-burner stove. Boucher is looking for an electrician, a plumber, and a carpenter to help with this project. Anyone able to volunteer should call her.

In response to the question, "What's next?", Boucher posed two immediate needs for the Parish Cupboard. "Easter is coming, and we are always on the lookout for more chocolate bunnies, baskets, and grass for the children we serve," she said. "On May 13th, at the Boys and Girls Club on Main Street in West Springfield, we will need all-hands-on-deck to help us sort the food brought in by the annual Letter Carriers Food Drive."

"Money, food, and chocolate is a tough job, but somebody's got to do it! Thank you to all who help," concluded Boucher.

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Buy Any Size Pizza, Get 2nd Pizza At HALF PRICE

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— Expires 4/30/00 —
(Offer Not Good With Any Other Coupon Or Promo)

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All Major Credit Cards Accepted
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For Take-Out, Call 786-7941

Beer And Wine Served

Full Menu Available To Please Everyone's Taste!



ASHLEY TINNIRELLA (center), an Agawam Middle School student and an award-winning figure skater, will be competing in the National State Games of America next year.

Ashley Tinnirella Earns Medals For Figure Skating

Ashley Tinnirella, who is 11 years-old and currently a sixth-grade student at the Agawam Middle School, traveled to St. Louis, Missouri in August 1999 to compete in the National State Games of America in Figure Skating. She skates with the Little Sun Valley Figure Skating Club in Springfield.

Ashley brought home the GOLD from St. Louis and went on to win the SILVER at the Nutmeg State Games (at the time, she was a resident of Enfield). She will now be competing in the National State Games of America in 2001.

On March 19th, Ashley participated in The Pittsfield Open and was the GOLD medalist in the Preliminary Ladies category and the SILVER medalist in the Preliminary Ladies Showcase.

The Preliminary Ladies category is a freestyle competition wherein the competitors incorporate various freestyle elements (spins and jumps) into a 1½-minute program. The Showcase event is more of a theatrical event where the competitors are judged on originality and showmanship.

The Little Sun Valley FSC is hosting its annual skating show on April 30th at 5:00 p.m. at Smead Arena, Roosevelt Ave., Springfield. Admission is free.

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- Estates
- Restraining Orders
- Wills
- Paternity

786-2211

786-2211

360 Springfield Street
Agawam

Agawam Senior Center To Sponsor Washington, D.C. Trip

This is your last chance to sign up for the April 15th-April 18th (Saturday through Tuesday) trip to Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Agawam Senior Center.

This trip is open to the public and the cost is \$403, which includes your stay at the Governor Inn in Virginia (with outdoor pool and seven meals included).

We will be visiting Capitol Hill, the FDR Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Ford's Theater, the Smithsonian Museum, and more. There will also be a night tour of the city and its monuments.

For reservations and/or more information, call the Agawam Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242.

Italian Women's Club Fashion Show To Be Held At Chez Josef

On Sunday, April 16th, beginning at 11:00 a.m., the Italian Women's Club will present "Primavera," fashions by Cohoes, at Chez Josef on Shoemaker Lane, Agawam.

The donation for this fashion show is \$25.

For tickets, please call Pat at 567-8313.

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"Beauty Corner"
by Mary Ann Zicolella

Salon Tres Chic
At Twin Silos
1407 Suffield Street
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-8274

Dealing With Skin Conditions...

QUESTION: What is the difference between eczema, psoriasis, and dermatitis?

ANSWER: Dermatitis is simply an inflammation of the skin. Dry, flaky skin, caused by the cold or sun stripping the natural moisture barrier your skin has, can create an atopic dermatitis known as eczema. This has been said to be hereditary and can also be set off by an allergic reaction to detergent, cosmetics, and fabrics such as wool. Anything that touches the skin can be the demon!

This condition can occur year-round and presents itself as red, itchy patches on the skin and may scab and flake off. Using a mild soap and moisturizer made for sensitive skin should help. Stay away from AHA's, acne products, and astringents. Wear cotton clothing against your skin, and the use of a cortisone cream for the irritation may be advised by your doctor.

To care for scalp, I recommend *Paul Mitchell's Tea Tree Shampoo*. It contains Tea Tree Oil, which is a special combination of 48 organic compounds distilled from the leaves of the Australian Tee Tree. It is a completely natural, non-toxic solvent, disinfectant, germicide, and antiseptic well-known for its healing properties. It also contains Lavender Oil and Chamomile Extract known to soothe and condition, and will also enhance natural highlights in the hair.

Seborrheic dermatitis is similar to eczema, as noted by dry, red, itchy skin. It can cause flakes around eyebrows, folds of the nose, and on the scalp (dandruff). It can be caused from stress and hormone-related problems, and reacts to climate change.

It is also an overgrowth of yeast in the sebaceous (oil) gland and can be controlled with an anti-fungal cream prescribed by your doctor. Results should be seen in about one week.

Your usual skin care routine can be continued, except I suggest that you stay away from AHA's or acne products. Treating the dandruff on your scalp can be done with an over-the-counter dandruff shampoo that contains either zinc pyrithione, tar, or salicylic acid.

Tar will cut down the increased cell turnover rate, so that the skin cells stop growing so quickly and causing flakes. Zinc kills fungus, and yeast and salicylic acid work by exfoliating the excess dead skin cells. Always choose a shampoo for your hair type.

Psoriasis is said to be genetic. There is no known cause or cure and can be severe, especially in light-skinned persons. Normal skin cells regenerate every 28 to 30 days.

With people afflicted with psoriasis, skin regenerates every three to four days. This causes red, irritated lesions covered in scaly, flaky skin, and it usually appears on hands, elbows, and buttocks. If this becomes severe, a doctor should be seen. Oral medication is usually prescribed (a retinoid like Accutane or Tegison).

As with any disorder, a health care specialist should be informed of any condition that does not go away or causes any concern.

A thought for a smile: new flowers showing their colors in your garden.

And remember, Beauty is our Business!



PFC JONATHAN W. DEZIELLE

PFC Jonathan Dezielle Completes Advanced Individualized Training

PFC Jonathan W. Dezielle has returned home to Feeding Hills after successfully completing his Advanced Individualized Training in Aberdeen, Maryland for the Army National Guard.

He chose the Machinist Course as his military occupational specialty training, and graduated as class leader.

Originally from New Bedford, he is a 1999 graduate of Agawam High School and is the son of Roger and Diane (Charbonneau) Dezielle, also of Feeding Hills.

Representative Dan Keenan To Appear On "The State We're In"

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan will be appearing on "The State We're In" this Friday, April 7th, at 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 9th, at 11:00 a.m. on WGBY Channel 57 to discuss the upcoming Fiscal Year 2001 State Budget.

Representative Keenan encourages your feedback, comments, or questions regarding the television show.

He can be contacted by phone at 786-4545 or by mail at P.O. Box 142, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, April 10th: Golden carrot soup, quiche, tossed salad, rye bread, orange.

Tuesday, April 11th: Pork chops with gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, oatmeal bread, apricots.

Wednesday, April 12th: Roast turkey, stuffing with gravy, butternut squash, whole wheat bread, cookies.

Thursday, April 13th: Baked chicken leg, steak fries, green beans, rye bread, ice cream.

Friday, April 14th: Corn chowder, tuna salad on a roll, cole slaw, pears.

Historical Association Seeks Submissions For Pictorial History Book

The Agawam Historical Association has received a May 31st deadline from its publisher regarding the pictorial history book it plans to publish.

The association is actively seeking images of the town's past in order to create a visual history of Agawam and Feeding Hills and needs your help! About half of the 200 photographs needed for the final book have been collected.

The association, in collaboration with Arcadia Press of Dover, New Hampshire, hopes to create a local edition of the publisher's popular *Images of America* series.

The association is looking for photos with caption information documenting the history and development of Agawam and Feeding Hills. Early views are especially welcome. All submitted photos from the 1860s to the 1970s will be reviewed for publication.

Picture postcards depicting scenes in Agawam and Feeding Hills may also be submitted.

The association currently has many photos of homes in the Agawam Center and Feeding Hills Center areas. Photographs pertaining to aviation in town are needed, as well as photos of agricultural subjects.

Original prints are preferred and will be returned upon completion of the project. An image release form must be signed granting permission for the image to be used.

If you or someone you know has photos or postcards they would like to share for this exciting project, please contact Visual History Book Committee chairpersons David Cecchi at 731-7600 during the day, and 789-3338 in the evening.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, April 13, 2000 at 7:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Aldridge for property at 63 Silver Lake Drive.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: April 6, 2000

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MR. & MRS. RAYMOND ROSS

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ross Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ross of 95 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Southwick Country Club with family members and friends.

The couple was married on March 31, 1950 in Enfield, Connecticut. They have two daughters, Linda Roberts and Laurel Curran, both of Southwick, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Ross was employed at Kidder Stacy for 30 years. He also worked 10 years at Riverside Park.

Mrs. Ross is a speaker on the committee for the Massachusetts Association for the Blind.



NICOLE M. BURNETT & JASON M. COTE

Nicole M. Burnett Engaged To Wed Jason Michael Cote

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Burnett are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Marie Burnett, to Jason Michael Cote.

Jason is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Armand Cote of West Springfield.

Nicole is a graduate of Agawam High School and is self-employed. Jason is a graduate of West Springfield High School. He is employed as a technician at Mass. Fire Technologies. He also served six years in the Army National Guard.

An October 2001 wedding is planned.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week in the ADVERTISER NEWS...

At The Capt. Leonard House...

Agawam Garden Club To Hold Next Mtg. On Tuesday, Apr. 11th

The Agawam Garden Club's April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Captain Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam.

Our guest speaker will be the WNNZ personality Nancy Wojcik, who is in her eighth year as talk show host on gardening every Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

At the April meeting, Nancy Wojcik will participate in a question and answer session. Her vast knowledge and experience in this field will allow the group to receive valuable information on landscaping and gardening.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Guests and new members are always welcome. Guest fee is \$2.

For Young Adults With Moderate Learning Disabilities...

Individuals Sought To Form Social/Recreation Club

Are you a parent of a young adult who is graduating or has graduated from high school? As parents of a young adult, we are seeking other young adults 18 to 20-something who are independent, have moderate learning disabilities, and require limited supervision who would be interested in starting a social/recreation club that would meet once a week.

Anyone interested can call Mary Lou at 786-1959 after 6:00 p.m.

Please patronize your local businesses ... AAN!!!

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Agawam Only (\$25 Minimum Order)

Call Before 12 Noon

For Afternoon Deliveries

\$5 Service Charge

USDA CHOICE

Boneless Sirloin Steak	\$3.99 Lb.
Boneless Spoon Roast	\$2.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins	
(Cut To Order)	\$5.99 Lb.
Center Cut Pork Chops Or Roast	\$1.99 Lb.
Loin End Roast	\$1.69 Lb.
Country Style Ribs	\$1.69 Lb.
Fresh Ground Pork	\$1.69 Lb.
Boneless Roast (Cut From Loin Or Rib End)	\$1.99 Lb.
Whole Pork Loins	
(Cut To Order)	\$1.69 Lb.
Grade "A" Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	\$2.69 Lb.

DELI

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$3.69 Lb.
Sorrento Provolone Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.69 Lb.
Imported Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Willow Brook Turkey Ham	\$1.99 Lb.
Mother Goose Liverwurst	\$2.89 Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Willow Brook Deluxe Turkey Breast	\$2.49 Lb.
Store-Made All White Meat Chicken Salad	\$4.99 Lb.



PRODUCE

Iceberg Lettuce (Head)	89¢
Hot House Tomatoes (Large Size)	\$1.39 Lb.
Celery Hearts (Bunch)	\$1.19
Red & Green Seedless Grapes	\$1.39 Lb.
Bananas	49¢ Lb.
Large-Size Honeydews (Each)	\$1.69

SEAFOOD

Scrod Fillet	\$4.99 Lb.
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DAIRY & FROZEN

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
Hood 2% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.29
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢

Tuesday & Wednesday Special...

**Boneless Chuck
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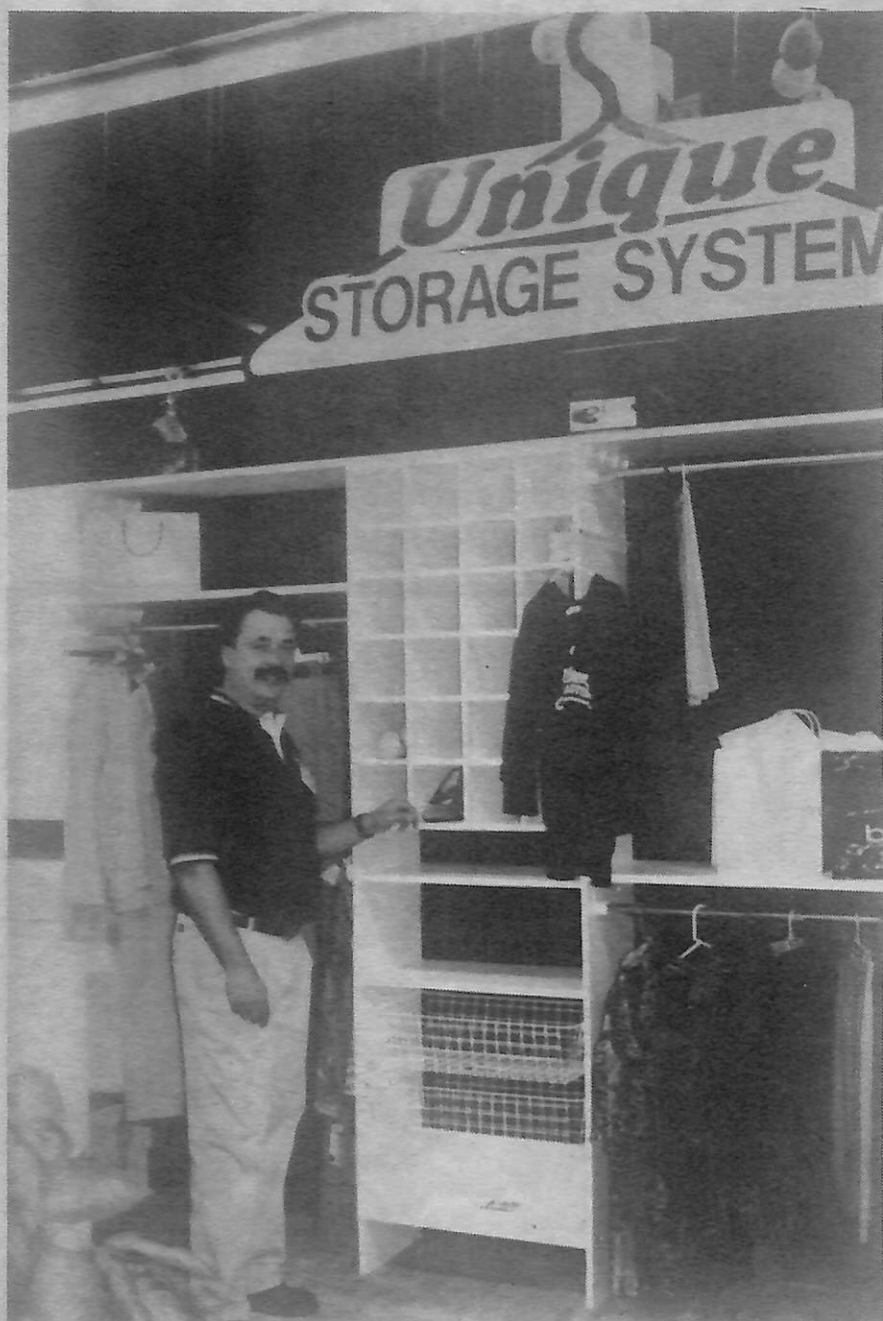
768 Main St. Agawam

786-7476

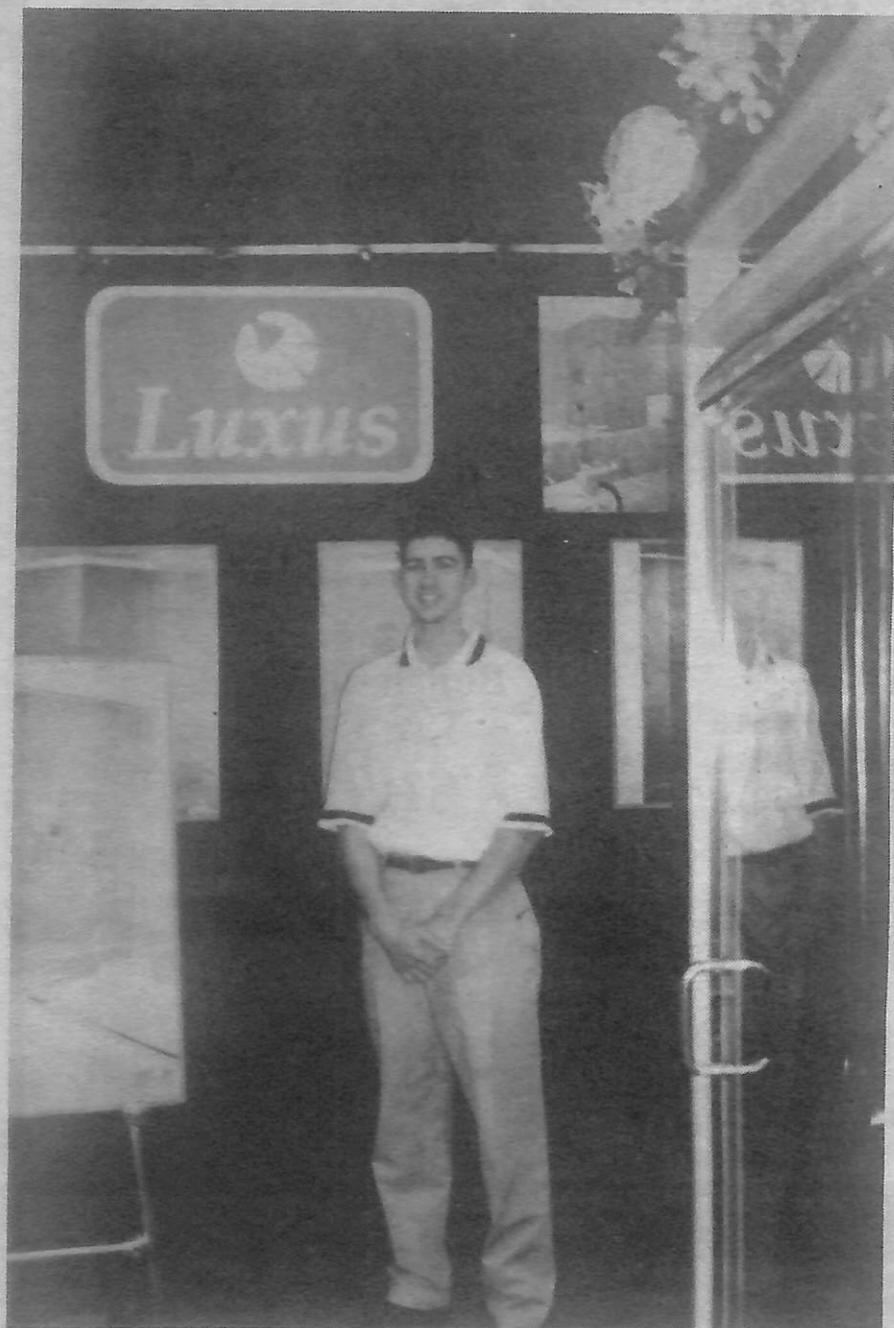
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Highlights From "HOME SHOW 2000"

(All Photos By Kathy Shepard)



Dan Willett of "Unique Storage Systems," 646 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.



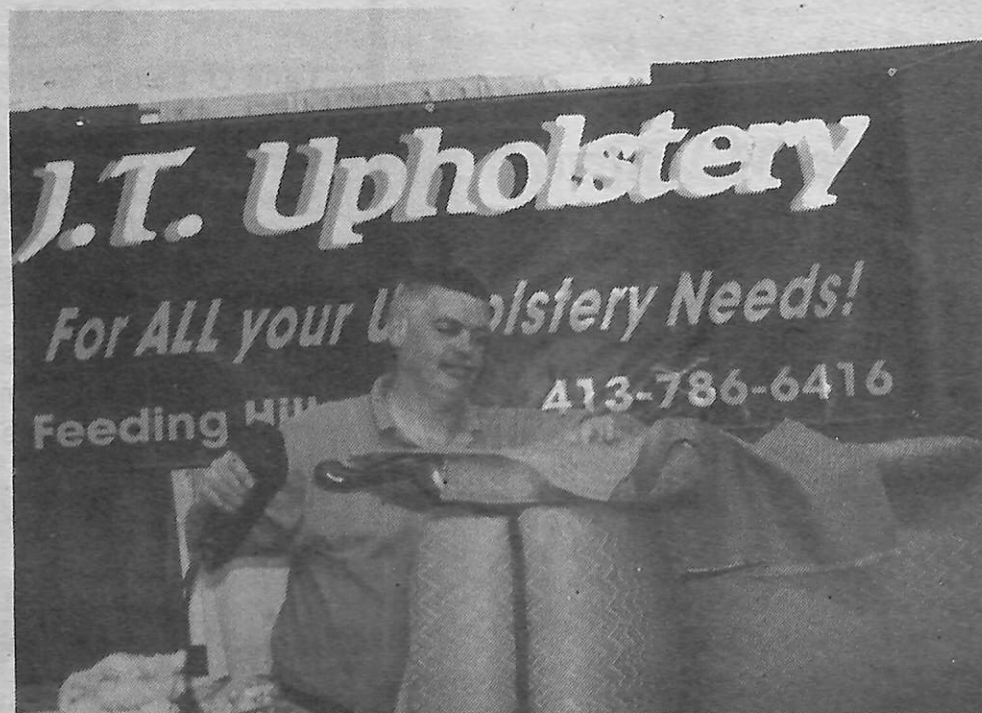
Keith Daubmann of "Mr. Shower" with a display of Luxus shower doors.



Sue Condon and Andy Osgood of "Shades on Wheels" at "HOME SHOW 2000" — The "Original" Western Massachusetts Home Show — which took place March 21st-26th on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.



From "Lucia Lumber Co." of Agawam (from left to right): Sherb Tilton, Tammy Lucia, Dave Fuller, Steven Lucia, and Tommy Athas.



Gary Brown of "J.T. Upholstery," 1505 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Highlights From "HOME SHOW 2000"

(All Photos By Kathy Shepard)



Scott Harlin and Joe Bucalo at "Kitchens of Distinction's" display at "HOME SHOW 2000."



Lisa Savitt-King, Deborah Pelloni, and Diane Kapinos from the Feeding Hills office of "Carlson/Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall."



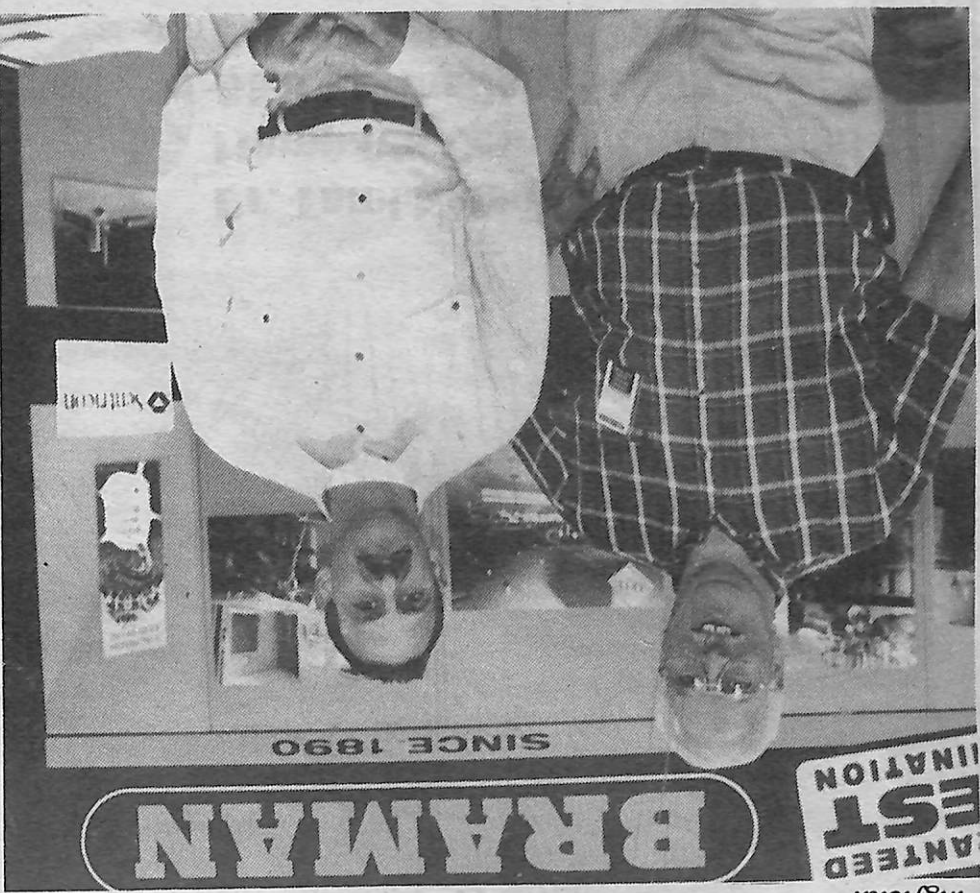
Bob Bushey and Gordon Harrington of the "Sunwin Corporation" of Feeding Hills.



Barbara Clark, Robert Moltis, and Kathy Rose of "Coldwell Banker Keenan & Moltis Associates."



Marie Lopez, a customer service representative from "Westfield Bank," was on hand at this year's "HOME SHOW" in West Springfield.



Michael Bensche and Mark Robbins of "Braman Chemical Company" of Agawam.

Highlights From "HOME SHOW 2000"

(All Photos By Kathy Shepard)



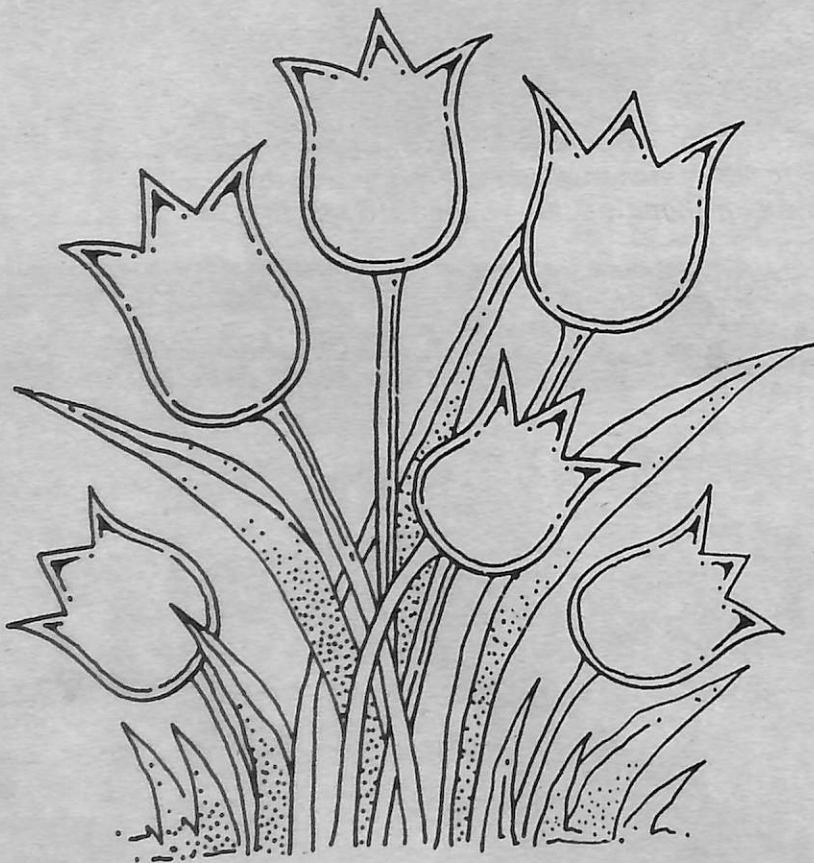
Donald McLean of "Allen Lawnmower" at "HOME SHOW 2000," which took place March 21st-26th in West Springfield.



Paul Tatro and Keith David of "Dee Service" at "HOME SHOW 2000" — The "Original" Western Massachusetts Home Show.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR "OLD" PHOTOS: If you've brought photos to our office for wedding announcements, scouting events, athletic teams, etc., we encourage you to pick them up during the month of April. As of April 30th, we will be disposing of all unclaimed photographs ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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Melissa R. Towne Becomes Bride Of Derek R. Fanska At Storrowton Village Meetinghouse

The Meetinghouse at Storrowton Village in West Springfield was the setting for the November 26, 1999 wedding of Melissa R. Towne, 29, and Derek R. Fanska, 28.

Parents of the bride are Barbara and Francis I. Towne, Jr., formerly of Agawam, now of Chicopee. The bridegroom is the son of Patricia and Richard Fanska of Westfield, Irma Barisano of Simsbury, Connecticut, and the late Michael Barisano.

Melissa is a 1988 graduate of Agawam High School. She also graduated from Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield under the Criminal Justice program, and attended Westfield State College in Westfield. She is a Mental Health Counselor with The Community Support Program in Holyoke, a division of The Center For Human Development in Springfield.

Derek is a 1990 graduate of Westfield Vocational Technical High School. He served in the

United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1996. He is currently attending Westfield State College, earning a degree in Psychology. Derek is also a Mental Health Counselor with The Community Support Program in Holyoke.

Jennifer Towne, Melissa's sister, attended as maid of honor. Her bridesmaids were Teresa Vespa, Angelique Gobeille, Brandie Barisano, and Debra DeCoteau. Alyssa Daniels, Melissa's niece, served as the flower girl.

Derek's best man was Christopher McFarland. His groomsmen were Richard Fanska, Donald Fanska, Kevin Goodin, and Al Goodin. Derek's cousin, Trey Goodin, served as the ring-bearer.

The couple honeymooned at the Sandals Royal Caribbean Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



MR. & MRS. DEREK R. FANSKA

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOR-2000-3

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT SISTER CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

(Sponsored By Councilors Anthony C. Bonavita and Councilor Richard Morassi)

(Also supported by chairman of the "ad hoc" commission and former Councilor Joseph Langone, commission Vice Chairman William Euliano, and commission member and former Councilor John Negrucchi.)

WHEREAS, the Sister City Commission was organized "ad hoc" by former Mayor Christopher C. Johnson for the purpose of establishing a sister city relationship with a city in the Republic of Italy, and

WHEREAS, after a period of intense study and debate, the members of the Sister City Commission selected the city of Reggio Calabria to be the Sister City of Agawam, and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 1999, the Agawam City Council approved a resolution establishing the Sister City relationship between the City of Agawam, and the city of Reggio Calabria, and

WHEREAS, the resolution establishing the Sister City relationship was subsequently approved by former Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, and

WHEREAS, the oversight maintenance, and ongoing development, of the Sister City relationship between the City of Agawam and the City of Reggio Calabria requires the existence of a permanent statutory Sister City Commission, NOW THEREFORE,

The Agawam City Council does hereby establish a commission, to be known as the Agawam Sister City Commission (Hereinafter called the "Commission"), for the purpose of fostering the City of Agawam's relationship with the City of Reggio Calabria, which will oversee, maintain, and strengthen economic, educational, cultural, and social ties between the citizens of our two cities:

Section 1. The commission shall consist of thirty (30) members appointed by the Mayor pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter. Commission members shall serve unlimited terms of three years (3) per term. Members of the original 1997 "ad hoc" commission who desire to continue serving shall automatically be reappointed to the permanent Commission upon enactment of this ordinance.

Section 2. The Chairman of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Vice Chairperson and the Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the Commission members.

Section 3. All Commission members shall be residents of the City of Agawam.

Section 4. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

Section 5. Commission reports shall be filed in the Office of the mayor. Official documents and records, both from the City of Agawam and from the City of Reggio Calabria shall be filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take full effect upon its acceptance by the City Council and Mayor.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

This 23rd day of MARCH, 2000

Robert Magovern, President

Agawam City Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Thomas S. Locke, Esq.

Agawam City Solicitor

Published: April 6, 2000

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week in the ADVERTISER NEWS...

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 18, 2000 at 7:30 P.M. at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA on a Class II Dealer License for Malkoon Motors, Inc., 1039 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

Published: April 6, 2000

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council



The folks at The Boyds Collection Ltd.® have decided to have a Tea Party...and not just any Tea Party, but...

The Biggest Tea Party In Over 200 Years...

since that thing
in Boston!



Join Us... Won't You?

One Day Only! Saturday April 8, 2000

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786-2407

Church News

Chicken Supper (Plain And Simple) At Valley Community Church

It's a sad day when there is no fun theme to a Chicken Supper article. I don't think the "well has run dry," but I must admit, I'm hard pressed to be funny this month in spite of the many special days April has to offer.

I could have started off with, "NO SUPPER THIS MONTH, Jeff and Mel! April Fools!" This would have ruffled their feathers, no doubt; not so much that we tricked them, but that it wasn't true.

I had thought of writing about the chicken who received a reprieve because she was an hour early on Daylight Savings Time. But that was last week and old news.

I could do a comparison between the Easter Bunny and the Easter Chicken, but I was afraid I might offend an Animal Rights Group.

No, sometimes it's best to leave well enough alone, to be up-front, straightforward, cut and dried, no nonsense, tell it like it is, so ... here it is:

The next Valley Community Church Chicken Supper will be held on Saturday, April 8th, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills. The menu will consist of half a baked chicken, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, all the fixings, rolls and butter, beverages, and homemade dessert.

The cost is \$8 for adults, and \$4.50 for children. For reservations, call Jeff at 789-2552, Shirley at 786-2756, or the church at 786-2445.

Events And Activities At First Baptist Church In Agawam

The pastor's sermon topic for April 9th at First Baptist Church, 760 Main Street, will be "Natural Conclusion?" and the scripture reading will be from I Corinthians chapter 8.

Visitors are welcome. Child-care is available during worship. Following worship is a time for coffee and fellowship and then Sunday School classes for all ages.

Two adult classes are offered - the Pastor's class, "The Hurried Family" and the study of the New Testament class, led by Rev. Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes.

Events for the week include the Evening Bible Study at 7:00 on Tuesday, the Lenten Prayer Time and Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday; the Handiwork Group at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

A Car Wash sponsored by our youth will be held on April 22nd, just in time to have a clean car for Easter.

Church office hours are 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and can be reached at 413-786-7300.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Announcements From Faith Bible Church In Agawam

We have started two services at Faith Bible Church, and it seems to be working very well. Having only one service showed us how it was time to grow and add on to our building (which will be happening in just a short time).

For the time being, we have enough seats to accommodate the wonderful people coming to both services, as all are welcome.

On Friday, April 22nd, we will be having a wonderful and insightful service as we "Retrace the hours leading to the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior." This time promises to give us the true meaning of Easter.

At this time of year, many people are looking for a church because, to most of us, it's a holy time. We welcome all who would like to share this evening, and it will be well worth the visit.

On Easter Sunday, April 23rd, we are having a special Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. Come and worship for He has risen.

On April 11th, we will be starting a women's Bible study at the church every Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Nursery will be provided, and all women are welcome.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., First Service; 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Service; 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Coffee/Fellowship.

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Bible Study/Book of Revelation.

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Prayer; 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Praise & Worship Service.

First & Third Thursday: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Young Ladies Bible Study (at the Michalak home).

Friday: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Youth Group.

Saturday: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., Leadership Prayer & Meeting; 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Open Prayer; 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Bible Study; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Music Practice; 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Outreach.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR "OLD" PHOTOS: If you've brought photos to our office for wedding announcements, scouting events, athletic teams, etc., we encourage you to pick them up during the month of April. As of April 30th, we will be disposing of all unclaimed photographs...

Calendar From Ag. Congregational

On April 9th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, worship will be held at the Agawam Congregational Church (745 Main Street, Agawam) at 10:30 a.m., and Church School will take place at 9:00 a.m. (for seventh- through 12th-graders) and during the 10:30 a.m. service (for Crib Room through sixth-graders).

The interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Eric Bascom, will continue his Lenten series, "Toughing It Through With Jesus," by bringing the fourth of his messages, "Love Your Enemies."

The Annual Meeting will follow the worship service, with reports and recommendations of boards and committees; the adoption of a budget for the year 2000; and the election of officers.

During the Lenten season, members of the Agawam Congregational Church will be crossing the street to the Agawam Baptist Church for regular Wednesday morning devotions at 7:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast at the Baptist church.

A Lenten series will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room. The series will be led by Gerry Desroches.

All are invited to attend. Join us as we journey through Lent together.

Men are invited to join the Men's Prayer Time, which meets at 7:45 a.m. each Tuesday morning. We read from the devotional guide "Under Room" for meditation and discussion, with time for coffee and fellowship.

On Thursday, April 20th, there will be a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m. At that time, the members of the Confirmation Class (who have been meeting with Dr. Bascom since September) will be presented by their sponsors for Confirmation.

They will then assist the Deacons in serving Communion, and will enact the roles of Jesus' Disciples in the solemn Tenebrae Service that concludes the evening.

There will be three Easter Sunday Services: a Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. (at Valley Community Church), and then Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Following the Sunrise Service, there will be a free will offering Pancake Breakfast at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church for those attending the Sunrise Service.

Please call the church office at 786-7111 if you plan on attending the service and pancake breakfast.

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.



SYMPTOMS: Do you...

- ☐ think spaghetti is a finger food?
- ☐ sleep "like a baby" (up at 10, 2 and 4)?
- ☐ write your grocery list in crayon?
- ☐ say "bye-bye" to everyone?

DIAGNOSIS: Mother of Preschooler! (MOP)

Rx: Attend a MOPS® meeting. Relief is usually immediate!

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- Small group discussion
- Creative activities
- Child care

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The Right Kind Of Faith

What kind of faith do you need to be forgiven of your sins and to obtain peace with God? The right kind of faith focuses on Jesus Christ. Here's what to do:

1. Admit your sinfulness and tell the Lord you want to turn from it. Jesus said, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).
2. Believe that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
3. Trust in Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

The time to trust in Christ, to make Him the object of your faith, is now. You can do it today by praying something like this:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and that in my own strength I cannot do anything to please You or to earn eternal life. I believe that You love me and that You sent Your Son to die on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin. I now put my faith in You and trust completely in Jesus Christ to rescue me. I desire to turn away from my sin and to let You take control of my life. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer in all sincerity, you can say, "Now I have the right kind of faith!"

Adapted from the booklet *Do I Have The Right Kind Of Faith?*
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CHURCH**

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*Our Daily
Bread*

Church News - continued...

Parish News And Notes From St. John's Church

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Come join us on April 9th after the 9:30 Mass. Our hosts will be the Over-60 Club.

This is a good time to meet that person who is sitting right beside you in church.

SPECIAL LENTEN MEAL

There will be a Lenten Sacrificial Meal on Tuesday, April 11th, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. This will be a simple meal of soup broth with vegetables and bread, all *free of charge*.

Bert Bertolino and his committee will be serving. Please come.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections will be coming up in May. As you know, one-third (five members) are elected each year.

If you wish to nominate someone or if you are interested in being nominated yourself, please call the Rectory or one of the present Council members as listed in the foyer of the church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Catholic Women's Club will again hold a tag sale in St. John's parking lot on April 29th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Spaces (15' x 18') are still available for vendors/crafters.

For more info, call Betsy, 786-5160.

SAINT JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter Committee is preparing for the next edition of the Parish Newsletter. Anyone who would like to submit an article is asked to call Donna Gregory at 788-7681 as soon as possible.

They are still accepting suggestions for a name for the newsletter.

AGAWAM SINGLES GROUP

The Singles Group meets on the *third Thursday* of each month. The next meeting will be held on April 13th in the lower church.

Lenten Calendar From Agawam United Methodist Church

Sunday morning service at Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St. (opposite the High School) is at 9:30 a.m.

Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. Bible study is held on Wednesday evening at 6:00 and 7:15 p.m.

At our last Church Meeting, we revised our plans for Easter.

Palm Sunday - 9:30 a.m. service as usual. **Maundy Thursday** - Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service - We will be combining with several other churches to greet the sunrise at the Valley Community Church on the hill on South Westfield St. in Feeding Hills.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast - We will join the other churches at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

We will be celebrating **Easter at 9:30 a.m.** on Sunday as usual at our own church. Hope to see you there!

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

"Weigh-Down" Program To Begin At St. David's Church

Don't be a slave to food any longer. God does not intend for food to control us, but sometimes we let this happen.

Join us at St. David's Episcopal Church for a free, no-obligation orientation about the "Weigh-Down" Program. Orientation will be held on Tuesday, April 11th, at 7:30 p.m. at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

This is a 12-week program for both men and women. For a registration fee, participants receive their own manuals and audiocassettes for home study. Classes will begin in May 2000. Since materials must be ordered before the start of class, individuals must be registered two weeks before the first class.

For more information about this exciting program, please call Sharon at (860) 668-8701 or the church office at 786-6133.

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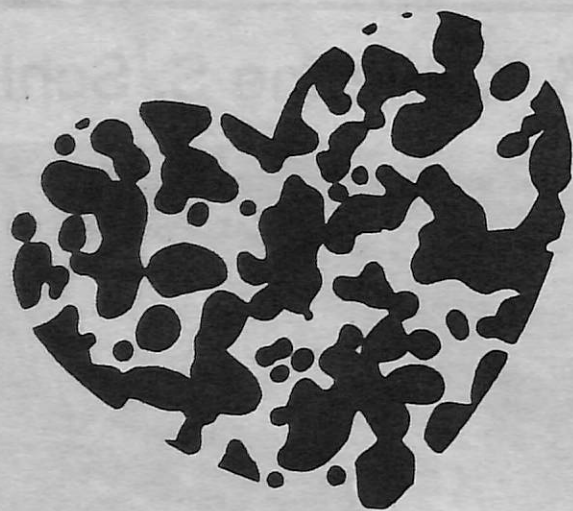
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MEMBER F.D.I.C.



Create in me
a clean heart,
O God,



and put a new and
right spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10

Take time this Lenten season to search your heart and
pray that God will lead you to where He wants you to be.

St. David's

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Worship Services: Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 8 am & 10 am
"Bible in Life" Kids' Classes & Nursery Care: Saturday 5 pm & Sunday 10 am
The Reverend Len Cowan

"Reconciling and Transforming Lives in Jesus Christ Our Lord"

Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
 Pastor of the New Life
 Christian Church,
 Suffield, CT
 (413) 789-1377 or
 toll free (877) 643-9801

God's Amazing Mercy...

Have you ever done something you're ashamed of? Something so awful you wouldn't want anybody to know about it? If so, you're by no means alone. The truth is, most of us have done something we're ashamed of, or at least should be.

Even the holiest people in the Bible committed shameful acts. King David, about whom God said, "He is a man after my own heart," committed adultery and murder all in one fell sweep.

In the spring, at the time the kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. The first thing David did wrong was to be in the wrong place. He was supposed to lead the troops in war, but he didn't do that. Now, one might think that's no way for a king, much less a man of God, to act; but the story gets worse.

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home.

The natural result of David and Bathsheba's behavior is pregnancy. Things weren't any different then. Bathsheba became pregnant by David. That was obvious, because Bathsheba's husband was off at war, where he belonged.

In what would turn out to be a feeble and vain attempt to cover up his adulterous behavior, King David tried to get Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, to stay overnight with his wife on a furlough. David's scheme didn't work.

We should stop for a moment to ask, who was Uriah the Hittite, anyway? It turns out that Uriah was one of David's closest friends. The treachery of David was truly horrible in light of this, but it got even worse. David schemed with one of his generals to put Uriah in a battlefield position in which Uriah was sure to be killed.

David thought that was the end of his troubles. He thought the shame he had brought on himself

died with Uriah. When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. Nobody knew the shameful thing which David had done.

Well, almost nobody. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord. The Lord sent Nathan to David. Nathan was a prophet of the Lord. He confronted David with what he had done. "You struck down Uriah with the sword and took his wife to be your own."

When confronted with his sins, David didn't try to make excuses. He didn't try to hide his sins anymore. God had found him out, so there was no point in trying. Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

David's confession is recorded in Psalm 51. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that you are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge. Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost part. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Cast me not from Your presence, restore to me the joy of Your salvation."

When David prayed, he looked up, rather than in. Sometimes people dwell on their wrongdoings in a somewhat morbid fashion. David didn't. Having acknowledged his sin, David quickly focused on God, His love, and His mercy.

Notice that David prayed for mercy "according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion." David knew that he was not a sinner in the hands of an angry God. David was a fallen man in the hands of a loving Father.

David also focused his prayer and his attention on his own relationship with God. Above all else, David wanted his relationship with God to be right. David realized that he had sinned against God when he acted so treacherously towards Uriah. Our relationship with God does not exist in a vacuum; when we hurt other people, we hurt God, as well.

Regarding our own shame, we have a choice. We can either try to hide it from God and ourselves like we hide it from other people, or we can come clean with God. Anybody who doesn't yet know God personally, or who may have strayed away from Him, will find Him to be a receptive audience if they pray as David did, "restore to me the joy of Your salvation."

News And Notes From Sacred Heart Church In F. Hills

RUMMAGE SALE

Just a note to remind you of the Rummage Sale that will be held on Thursday, April 27th in the Parish Center at Sacred Heart Church.

Some good sellers are children's and women's clothing. Sheets and blankets always go fast, as do towels and curtains.

In the Attic Treasure Room, holiday decorations, toys, dishes, small appliances (please, no old TVs or computers. We don't have the room and we never know if they really do work!).

This year, we have to ask you to drop off your items on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before the sale because of Easter being on the Sunday preceding the sale.

As always, we ask that you be sure everything you bring us is clean and sellable.

Remember that all money raised is used to help those in the community who need a helping hand.

HOLY THURSDAY

If you wish to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday, call the rectory and leave a message.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Friday, April 7th and continue until 12:00 noon.

MONDAY EVENING MASS

The 6:00 p.m. Monday evening Mass will now be held at 7:00 p.m. as this time is preferred by more people.

Annual Spring Rummage Sale At Sacred Heart Church

The Annual Spring Rummage Sale at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills will be on Thursday, April 27th.

There will be rooms filled with clothing for the entire family, household linens, and a room filled with Attic Treasures. Hours for the sale are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., the doors will open again and you can fill a bag (provided) for \$3. This will end at 7:00 p.m.

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Grace Baptist Church

475 Pine Street, Feeding Hills
 Pastor Carmen A. Rizzo

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Schedule Of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
 10:30 A.M. - Morning Service

Series - "Biblical Portraits"
 (Role Models For Today)

6:00 P.M. - Evening Services
 Series - "Immortality"

FRIDAY

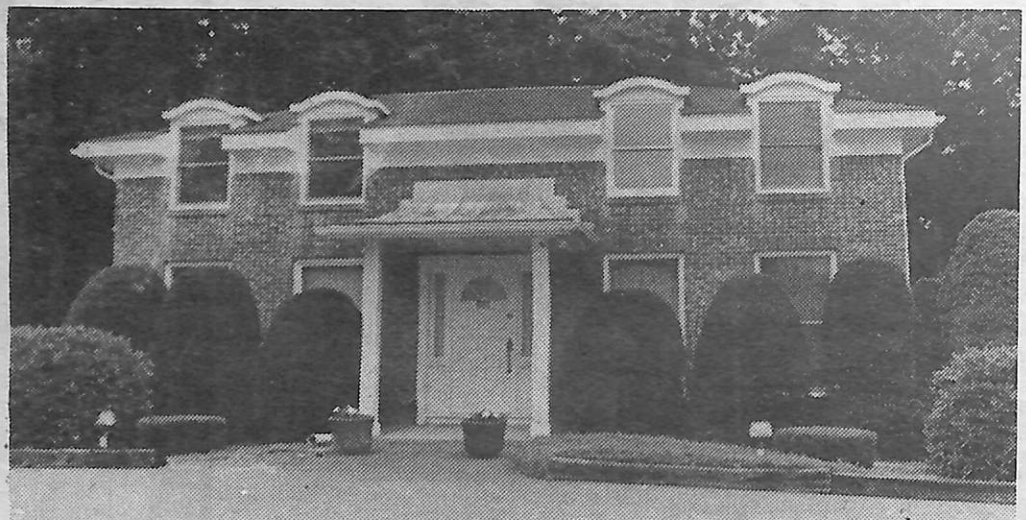
6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Awana Clubs Youth Program
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Church News - continued...

Weekly Announcements From Feeding Hills Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include the Service of Holy Communion. Rev. Donaldson's sermon is entitled "Decisions, Decisions." The Bible reading is John 12:23-26.

Ushers will be Ben and Sharon Rozanski. Samantha Justilian and Nick Pelter will be our Acolytes. The Roses will be hosting our Social Hour following worship. Children, who are invited to attend worship with adults, will be dismissed for Sunday School at a designated time. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, the Board of Christian Education has planned a special activity for students.

Orders for Easter flowers must be placed with the Flower Committee by Sunday, April 9th. If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please contact Sharon Rozanski at 786-8743, Betty Bava at 786-0679, or Margaret Johnson at 525-7480.

Upcoming seasonal events: On Maundy Thursday, April 20th, there will be a Seder Supper here in the evening. This is a traditional feast commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. Jesus was sharing this meal with the disciples on the night he was betrayed. On Easter morning, April 23rd, we will meet with members of various churches at Valley Community Church for a Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. This service will be followed by breakfast served here with members of our Sunday School helping. At 10:00 a.m., a traditional Easter Service will take place in our sanctuary.

Catholic Women's Club Seeks Vendors For Rummage Sale

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam is seeking vendors and crafters for a tag/rummage sale to be held on April 29th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the parking lot of St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam.

Size of space is 15' x 18' and the cost is only \$15. Food and drinks will be available on the premises.

For further information, call Betsy Ciempa at 786-5160.

On Sunday, April 9th, we will take our monthly collection for the Parish Cupboard. Food donations needed include soup, canned vegetables, pasta, beans, canned fruit, cereal, boxed meals. Clothing and cash donations are welcome, also. Volunteers are needed to make desserts for the Parish Cupboard on Wednesday, April 12th.

Please use the sign-up sheet in Griswold Hall and plan to have your dessert here by 12:00 noon on that Wednesday.

On the calendar:

Friday, April 7th: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club
Sat., April 8th: Suitcase Seminars in Westfield
Sunday, April 9th: 10:00 a.m., Communion/Parish Cupboard Sunday; 12:00-8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption

Monday, April 10th: 4:00 p.m., Daisy Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Property Committee; 7:30 p.m., Christian Ed Committee; 7:30 p.m., Mittineague Women

Tues., April 11th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wed., April 12th: Parish Cupboard desserts needed; 2:45 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Confirmation; 7:30 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee

Thurs., April 13th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00 p.m., Church of Redemption Bible study

Lenten Schedule For St. Anthony/St. Theresa Churches

LENTEN SCHEDULE

DAILY MASSES: 9:00 a.m.—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (St. Theresa's); 7:00 p.m.—Thursday (St. Theresa's); 9:00 a.m.—Friday, Saturday (St. Anthony's).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 8:30 a.m., Friday (St. Anthony's).

PALM SUNDAY: 8:30 a.m., St. Anthony's; 11:00 a.m., St. Theresa's (Special Mass for the children).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY: 7:00 p.m., St. Theresa's (with a procession to St. Anthony's).

GOOD FRIDAY: 4:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross (Mary's Way), St. Anthony's; 7:00 p.m., St. Theresa's.

EASTER VIGIL: 8:00 p.m., St. Theresa's.

EASTER: 8:30 a.m., St. Anthony's; 11:00 a.m., St. Theresa's.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

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Want To Trim Your 2000 Tax Bill? Here's Where To Start... (Part I Of II)

Did your recent tax filing painfully point out the need to cut taxes? Three places to try trimming your 2000 tax bill are at home, at work, and in your investment portfolio.

At home. Your home and family situation may harbor plenty of tax reduction opportunities, including:

Child Tax Credit — If you have children under age 17, you're likely to get a sizeable write-off. The Child Tax Credit allows a \$500 credit on your 2000 income tax for each dependent child, including stepchildren and eligible foster children. The credit begins to phase out at incomes of \$110,000 for couples filing jointly, \$75,000 for single filers, and \$55,000 for married people filing separately.

Education Tax Credits — While you're considering the tax benefits of parenthood, see if you qualify for two nonrefundable educational tax credits as well. The Hope Scholarship Credit may be as much as \$1,500 for qualified expenses for any family member in their first or second year of college or other post-secondary school.

The Lifetime Learning Credit offers a credit of 20 percent of qualified expenses up to \$1,000 for any family member in any type of post-secondary course. Both credits begin to phase out at incomes of \$80,000 for joint filing married couples and \$40,000 for single filers (the credits cannot be claimed by married individuals filing separately).

Home Sale Capital Gain Exclusion — Selling your home is now less taxing, thanks to an exclusion on home sale capital gains — up to \$500,000 for married couples and \$250,000 for single taxpayers. If you are married and file separately, each of you must determine your gain or loss according to your ownership interest in the home.

To get the full exclusion, you must own and occupy the home as a principal residence for at least two of the five years prior to the sale. For shorter holding periods, such as in the case of a sale due to change in place of employment, health, or unforeseen circumstances, the exclusion is prorated.

Home Office Deduction — If you work at home — either on your own or at your employer's request — you may be able to write off expenses for a home office. Deductible expenses may include office equipment, furniture, utility and maintenance bills, and even part of your home mortgage. Check with your accountant for details.

At work. If you're fortunate, you'll find that many of your best tax-cutting opportunities are related to your employment.

Qualified Retirement Plan — If you have a 401(k), 403(b), or other retirement plan, maximize your contributions for the biggest benefit. With tax deferral of contributions and earnings, and a possible employer match, such plans may be an effective way to build retirement wealth.

Flexible Spending Accounts — These benefits let you avoid tax on income used to pay for qualified medical or dependent care expenses. You set aside a certain amount for each purpose, and when you need the money you withdraw it through your company benefits office.

Eligible medical expenses may include health care deductibles, uncovered physicals, prescription eyeglasses and contacts, and transportation to and from your doctor. Dependent care costs may include daycare, preschool, and care for an aging parent who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.

("Part II" will be published next week.)

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Legal Memo

by

Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Permanent Injury To Motorcycle Driver

In 1997, the plaintiff was operating his motorcycle when the defendant allegedly turned left across the plaintiff's lane of travel, and was cited for improper turning.

The plaintiff's motorcycle collided with the passenger's side rear of the defendant's car. The plaintiff's primary injuries were a transverse fracture of the distal shaft of the right tibia and fibula and a lateral malleolus fracture.

The local hospital was not equipped to perform the necessary intermedullary rodding procedure and the plaintiff was transported to a larger hospital where he remained an in-patient for five days. The plaintiff had no health or disability insurance and PIP did not apply in this instance. He, therefore, returned to his native country to enroll in its disability health plan, which is available to all its citizens.

Approximately four months later, the surgeons in his native country suspected the proximal locking screws of the IM rod might need to be adjusted, and they feared they did not have the necessary tools to perform this surgery.

The plaintiff, therefore, flew back to this country to be examined by the surgeons who performed the operation. While these surgeons opined that the fracture was well aligned and did not require tightening, they also opined that the plaintiff suffered a 15-percent whole person permanent impairment. The IM rod remains in place, as do the surgical scars and residuals.

The case was settled for \$160,000.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR "OLD" PHOTOS:
If you've brought photos to our office for wedding announcements, scouting events, athletic teams, etc., we encourage you to pick them up during the month of April. As of April 30th, we will be disposing of all unclaimed photographs ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!



DENA M. PETRANGELO

Dena M. Petrangelo Named Marketing Mgr. At Woronoco

Dena M. Petrangelo was recently promoted to Marketing Manager at Woronoco Savings Bank, announced Cornelius D. Mahoney, Chairman, President and CEO.

An employee since 1997, Dena graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in communication and journalism and a minor in history.

She earned a certificate in fundraising from the University of Massachusetts School of Management and is currently attending the Massachusetts School for Financial Studies. Dena is a member of the board of directors of the Friends of Grandmothers' Garden, Inc. She resides in Feeding Hills.

Woronoco Savings Bank provides a wide variety of financial products and services through its 11 branch offices located throughout Hampden and Hampshire Counties in Western Massachusetts. The bank employs a staff of approximately 170 people.

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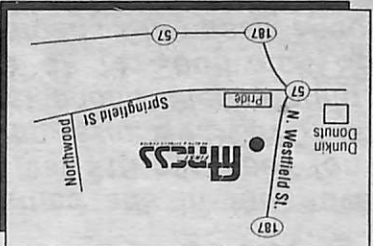
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Spotlight On Business - continued...**Pam Savioli****CARLSON GMAC**
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Contact me and I will provide a house analysis that gives you time to correct defects they become critical issues in last-minute bargaining with a potential buyer.

Izzy Gesell To Speak At Chamber's Annual Breakfast

Izzy Gesell, well-known comedian and professional corporate speaker, will be the featured speaker at the Agawam Chamber's Annual Breakfast, sponsored by Six Flags New England on Wednesday, April 12th at Oak Ridge Golf Club.

The public is invited to hear Gesell speak to the business community on "Managing to Have Fun."

Tami Nelson, chair of the program committee, shared that the Chamber is "very lucky" to have Izzy make a return appearance in Agawam. According to Nelson, several years ago, Gesell had the local business leaders laughing out loud as he challenged them to use humor to manage stress. Gesell is originally from Brooklyn, New York, where he says a sense of humor is a survival skill. His clients include NASA, Hewlett-Packard, the IRS, HBO, and Lucent Technologies.

Also on the program are salutes to incoming and outgoing board members and to Chamber breakfast sponsor, Six Flags New England.

Reservations for the breakfast are \$12 and may be made by calling Laurie Brunelle at 755-1313.

* * * * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

* * * * *

**COMMON SENSE**

with

Raymond Rose
The PIONEER Group
(731-6800)**The Latest Edition Of "The Pioneer Report - Online" (Part I Of II)**

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE PIONEER REPORT. As always, I have tried to fill this issue with short and informative articles. Please send me your questions or ideas and I'll publish them in future issues. Thanks ... and enjoy the season!

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH SUCCESS ... Spend time with people who do what you want to do ... and live as you want to live. You will pick up new ideas, possibilities, and images. Read books by and about people you admire. Hear and see their music and art ... their creativity will inspire your own. Get in the habit of noticing praise and recording it to review later. This will boost your self-image by making you aware of your praiseworthy qualities.

ESTATE PLANNING REMINDER ... Any plan is better than none. People too often put off estate planning because they simply don't want to think about it or because they think it will take a lot of time to devise the perfect plan. Don't make extra (and costly) trouble for your heirs. Get something on the record. You can always change it later.

DON'T SAY NO TO YOUNG KIDS ... Children younger than age seven have not fully developed logical thought. If you tell them NOT TO do something, they visualize themselves doing it and are more likely to do exactly what you DO NOT want. Much more effective: Tell young children what you want them to do. Example: Instead of saying, "Don't run," say, "I want you to slow down and walk."

KEEP GOOD TAX RECORDS FROM THE BEGINNING OF HOMEOWNERSHIP ... Information such as points paid in a refinancing or the cost of a room addition or extensive remodeling can be important when you sell your home to establish your cost basis. Careful records will also make an IRS tax examination (if you should ever have one) easier to manage. Note: Official records, such as building permits, certificate of occupancy applications, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) forms, inspection forms, etc., are better than canceled checks and builder receipts.

TWELVE-PERCENT OF THE GROCERIES THAT WE BUY ARE THROWN AWAY ... Nearly two-thirds of discarded items were bought for a special event that was canceled. Control impulse

* * *

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buying and always shop with a list. Studies show that when you shop with a detailed list, you'll spend up to 30 percent less than when you walk into a store not having a clue what you plan to buy.

USEFUL WEB SITES ... Tourist Offices: Directory of county, state, and local offices, including phone numbers, addresses, and web sites, can be found at www.towd.com. **Outdoor Adventures:** Great places for kayaking, snorkeling, and much more can be searched by location or activity at www.gorp.com.

YOUR FINANCES ... Many people from our parents' and grandparents' generation lived by one inviolate rule when it came to finances: If they didn't have the cash in hand, they didn't buy it. Considering the fact that debt is one of the leading causes of emotional and psychological stress in our lives, many of us would do well to live that way today. Living SIMPLY is not a matter of living CHEAPLY or of feeling deprived. On the contrary, it's an opportunity to get in touch with what is really important to you, and to reach a level of moderation that will create not only a feeling of contentment and security, but also a sense of being in control of your life.

TEACH YOUR KIDS HOW TO USE THE PHONE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES ... Children should learn their phone numbers, including the area code, as soon as they become verbal. They should know that it is all right to dial 0 or 911 in an emergency, even before calling home. Teach them how to dial from various phones ... home, pay, hotel, and business. Tell them to dial 911 and leave the phone off the hook if they are in danger, since emergency operators can trace the call rapidly.

BEGIN SAVING NOW FOR YOUR END-OF-YEAR HOLIDAY EXPENSES ... Begin saving now for your end-of-year holiday expenses. Local banks and credit unions offer Christmas clubs and other savings plans. Payments can be automatically deducted from your checking account or paycheck. Interest rates vary, so shop around. Higher-paying alternative: Buy a bank CD that will mature late in the year. Other strategies: Set aside your tax refund for holiday purchases or buy some gifts each month so bills do not mount up. Pay off post-holiday debt before you start saving for next year, and spend less next time. Key: Save for all holiday expenses, including cards, decorations, extra groceries, and travel costs.

ONLINE AUCTION TRAPS FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS ... There are now more than 850 Internet auction sites. These auctions can be an alluring drain on your bank account. But there are safe defenses. Buyers: Don't succumb to auction fever, don't deal with sellers who accept money orders only, ask about the seller's return policy, and don't worry too much about snipers. Sellers: Don't get too fancy, be sure to use an escrow service when selling pricey items, take shipping and insurance into account, make sure fragile items are packed correctly, and confirm all deliveries.

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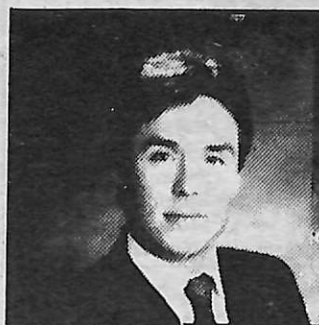
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Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
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Certain Health Risks Encountered By Riders Of Conventional Bicycles...

I have a number of patients who are avid bicyclists. They are often seen in my office with complaints of lower back, leg, neck, and arm symptoms that are directly associated with their beloved sport.

Nearly everyone is familiar with conventional bicycles and the many joys (and pains) of bicycle riding. Most of us learned to ride as small children, but as we age, bicycles represent more than just a fun form of recreation. They can offer a viable method of aerobic exercise that may often be pursued well into our senior years.

Riding a bicycle is a non-jarring, measured, and deliberate form of active motion that fosters a sense of physical and mental being. However, improved levels of physical fitness do not come without a price.

You need to be aware of certain health risks which may be encountered by riders of conventional bicycles. Some are clearly evident, while others are far less obvious. For the purpose of clarification, a "conventional" bicycle will be defined as one upon which the rider's torso assumes a position somewhere between nearly upright (perpendicular to the ground) and extreme anterior flexion (bent forward) over the handlebars.

This forward leaning position raises numerous structural and neurologic concerns for the rider. The farther forward the rider leans while in the seated position, the higher the pressure inside the spinal discs climbs in the lumbar spine. For patients who have preexisting disc problems, this position creates additional stresses upon already-compromised outer disc fibers. The result is often exacerbation of back and/or leg problems.

To make matters worse, in an exaggerated position of forward flexion, the bicyclist is forced to place the cervical spine (neck) into hyperextension (excessive backward bend) to be able to view the road ahead. The rider must also rotate the neck while in hyperextension to look behind. This contributes to neck problems.

Conventional bicycles also place the rider's arms in a position leading to numbness in the fingers and hands. It could certainly compromise the carpal tunnel and/or aggravate any preexisting carpal tunnel syndrome.

The constant contraction of the muscles of the forearm can also occasionally lead to chronic problems with tendinitis and fascial irritation. And, in the long-standing, forward flexed posture, compression forces are also transmitted to both shoulder joints, leaving some avid riders open to bursitis.

Chiropractic spinal care is an effective way of countering detrimental forces experienced by avid bicyclists. And, if you've ever seriously pursued bicycling, you may want to explore "recumbent" bicycling. After trying a recumbent bicycle, I can tell you that the experience is exhilarating, pain-free, and — most of all — "spine friendly."

Production costs exceed those of mass-produced, conventional bicycles, so expect to pay more for these bicycles. However, this should be weighed against the many years of trouble-free (and pain-free) use that a well-made recumbent bicycle will provide.

Ergonomically designed seat-backs support and cushion the spine while distributing the rider's upper body weight evenly. The arms are held comfortably in front of the body, with hands gently resting on chest-high handlebars. There is no weightbearing through the upper extremities.

The head and neck are held comfortably in a position of anatomic rest, allowing the rider a stress-free panorama all around him/her. As a chiropractor, I look at ergonomic correctness. One ride on a recumbent bicycle should convince you that "conventional" bicycle designs are greatly lacking in natural ergonomics.

Try a recumbent bike; you'll be pleasantly surprised.

The SCHLAFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE is conveniently located at 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, 789-1369 or 789-1073.

* * *

All the hometown news with us,
each and every week...

* * *



Fitness Tips...

by
Carmela Kirk, R.N.
Fitness Director
Fitness First

Have You Ever Considered...???

Have you ever considered hiring someone to help you get ready for summer? Do you feel your exercise routine could use a little attention? Is your fitness level important enough to you to put the extra energy into it?

This time of year, it seems to get more important to everyone. I'm sure this has nothing to do with summer and bathing suits and beaches. I'm sure it has everything to do with a sudden realization that your health is of utmost importance, right??? For whatever the reason, consider asking someone for help. Consider a personal trainer.

Before hiring a personal trainer, do your homework. Be sure to check education level and certifications held. You want either a bachelor's degree in science in the health and fitness field, or personal training certification from a reputable fitness organization.

It is important they know the basic and advanced levels of anatomy and physiology. It is important they know and understand the physiology behind training at different heart rates. It is imperative they understand your goals and can teach you how to reach them.

Before hiring your trainer, meet them in person. Make sure you feel comfortable with them. Sometimes exercise can and should get a little uncomfortable; you don't want a personality clash, thus making it worse.

Would you feel comfortable speaking freely with this person? If not, explore other options and other trainers. Chances are, if you are not comfortable with them, they are not comfortable with you. Some personalities match, some don't, and that is okay.

A trainer can really individualize things for you, and work with your specific goals in mind. Your first visit should be a full evaluation of health and fitness. Where you are and where you want to go should be assessed. Then make sure you understand what is recommended and why. Ask questions and expect complete and thorough answers.

Sometimes you need one or two visits; sometimes it's a long-term relationship. Rates vary, so ask about that *after* you've established that this is a service that you want and this is the person you want to work with.

Then, while maintaining the responsibility for your health and fitness, give a little of the control away to someone you trust. And lastly, you may consider buying a brand-new bathing suit.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Avocados Contribute To A Healthy Lifestyle

Here's a closer look at two phytochemicals found in fruits and vegetables:

- Beta-sitosterol is an important phytosterol found in fruits like bananas, apples, cantaloupes, grapes, plums, and cherries. High phytosterol intake has been linked with lower blood cholesterol levels. Among all commonly eaten fruits, oranges and avocados contain at least twice the amount of the phytosterol found in other foods, including corn, green soybeans, and olives.

- Glutathione, a phytochemical found in fruits and vegetables, acts as an antioxidant. Antioxidants help the body by "mopping up" free radicals that are known to play a role in the development of heart disease and some cancers. Avocados may be one of the best fruit sources of glutathione, which may offer some protection against oral, throat, and other types of cancer.

Additional Health Benefits Of Avocados:

While phytochemicals have received a lot of attention lately, other important nutrients are found in fruits and vegetables.

- Avocados, along with other fruits and vegetables, are nutrient-dense in vitamins E and C - antioxidants that help promote healthy teeth and gums and protect the body tissue from oxidation damage.

- Folate is another important nutrient that promotes healthy cell and tissue development. Consuming enough folate is essential for pregnant women and women of child-bearing age. Avocados contain more folate per ounce than other fruits.

- Potassium is a mineral that helps the body's fluids and other life-essential minerals stay in balance. The richest fruit sources of potassium are avocados and bananas.

One medium avocado packs in 300 calories. That's not a problem for folks who don't tend to put on weight. But for those who do gain weight easily, think of avocado as a garnish or condiment. A serving is 1/5 of avocado and that is enough to punch up the flavor of any dish.

Next Week: "Wanted: More Fruits & Vegetables"

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association. She can be reached at 850 Springfield St., Suite 4, Feeding Hills, MA 01030; (413) 786-2957. Accepting Tufts, Secure Horizons, and Harvard Pilgrim.

The discomfort of living

Read more about this in today's FOR YOUR HEALTH column.

from

Dan Pender

Marriage & Family Therapist

A Clinical member of the

American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy

caring for individuals, couples and families.

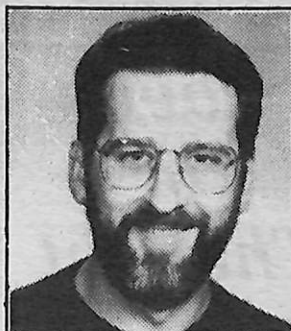
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For Your Health - continued...



"Let's Talk About It"
by Dan Pender
Marriage &
Family Therapist
P.O. Box 449
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 789-4460

The Discomfort Of Living...

Thanks to those who provided some feedback about last week's challenge of facing one's own death as a way of facing life. Before getting to your feedback, let me say that today I am not speaking about one's physical discomfort, but more about one's emotional discomfort in living.

Comments ranged from being *too insensitive* by way of asking you to look at how your life might be different if you faced your own death to *wishing that I was more "comforting" and not so direct in my presentation of such a difficult topic.*

One person specifically said that *it would have been easier, in some way, to face the question of their death if in fact a serious diagnosis had been given to them and they were forced to face this question.* Since they are in their mid-forties, it was hard to "imagine" their own death and its implications without such a diagnosis.

Another person spoke about *how helpful this exercise was because it helped her realize how, as she put it, "I would rather 'Be kind than rewind.'"* The idea being that over-focusing on one's past (regrets) can inhibit living in the present.

This last person's comment about living life in the present is what I'd like to spend a few moments with you talking about today. Many of us would, I think, prefer *not* to live in our past and instead try our best to be in the present. This task of living in the present, however, can be enormously challenging to accomplish.

The difficult part of this task, as I experience it, is not so much trying *not* to get caught up in our past, as much as it is about **"real living"** in the present. So many of us relate to one another either by talking about a third person (or thing) as a way of avoiding being in the present and/or find it very difficult to stay *just* with yourself and with that person because it can be **so intimate**.

I think the discomfort of living in the present comes into play because really being with another person challenges us to be really present with ourselves. I don't know about you, but for me, this is something that takes a lot of energy and relationship re-tooling to accomplish.

In effect, we often actually have to *unlearn* how to do or be in relationship with ourselves in order to move into the discomfort of real living in the moment with another. I'm not suggesting that everything between people needs to be so serious and heavy, but what about that? Can you have serious moments with the most important people in your life?

Can you talk about what really matters to you? If not, how do you take care of yourself when this is present? Do you retreat and separate, perhaps even for days, weeks, or even years? Do you give up on yourself and in so doing give up on the other

person or vice versa?

Discomfort especially comes into play when you **both know** you are avoiding getting at the real important stuff. It is also discomforting when you risk the challenge of facing the other person with these difficult issues on your terms. Either way, you probably will have a good dose of *anxiety* attached to this effort.

Anxiety is discomforting because it represents, among other things, change. And change is usually uncomfortable! Whether the change is in the form of a challenge to talk to someone, or in changing your own behavior, like not smoking any longer or eating more healthy, or in trying to live life as if nothing were wrong. All of these take emotional energy. Where does your energy go? How do you care for yourself in the discomfort for authentic living?

The complexity of discomfort and authentic living in the present.

Please contact me with what you've come up with. As always, if I reprint any or all of your material, I will *not* publish your name **unless** you specifically give me permission to do so. I can be reached by e-mail (AOL screen name: dpmft449) or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001 or by phone at (413) 789-4460.

On Saturday, April 15th...

Bereavement Support Group To Meet At Mercy Hospital

Persons who have experienced the death of a partner are invited to attend the next meeting of Mercy Hospital's bereavement support group, Saturday, April 15th.

The "Being Alone" group will meet from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew St.

Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care, facilitates the free meetings, which focus on issues of grief, mourning, and recovery.

Registration is required; for more information, call (413) 748-9453.

Mercy Hospital is a member of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS). The SPHS' member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

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Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Chiropractic & Golf

Many of my patients are avid golfers. It's funny; they will be dealing with back pain for months and not address the problem - until the day before the golf game.

Then they'll be in a panic calling for an appointment to come in that day. They know the discomfort they're experiencing will affect the game, possibly increasing the score (ugh!).

They come into the office saying, "Doc, fix me up. I've got a game tomorrow."

"Uh-huh, have you been exercising the past few months, stretching like I told you?"

The head hangs low and they mutter an incoherent grunt. "Hmm," I say, "looks like you've put on a few pounds over the winter." The head hangs a little lower. "This may affect your game, you know."

Chiropractic is not a magic pill, a drug which will miraculously cure problems. That does **not** exist, even though modern medicine and drug companies like you to think it does.

If you want to play golf and not suffer, the responsibility lies with you!

- Keep your weight down. Extra pounds can cause extra pressure, and increase the likelihood of injury.

- Stretch the muscles before you play. Instead of playing poorly the first few holes because of "stiffness," stretch and warm-up to prevent this.

- Strengthen up the muscles that will be utilized during the swing to get more power. These muscles are mostly the abdominals that are used.

- Eat good foods to keep your body's energy level consistent. Sweets and junk food alter your sugar level and affect performance.

If you are interested in learning more about how to improve your golf performance, attend an exciting seminar on Wednesday, April 26th, 7:00 p.m. at 850 Springfield St. in Feeding Hills. Please call our office at 786-4820 to reserve a seat.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at 850 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

"For Your Health" is a regular feature of the The AAN...

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789-2106

For Your Health - continued...

Sixth Annual Dinner Dance For Epilepsy Awareness

*If you add a little to a little,
And then do it again,
Soon that little shall be much.*
- Hesiod

The Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee hosted its Sixth Annual Dinner/Dance for Epilepsy Awareness and Silent Auction on Saturday evening, February 26th, at Chez Josef in Agawam.

This year's recipient of the "Inspirations for A Cure Award" went to Bill Murphy, Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of MA & RI. He was honored for his commitment and dedication to the many people in the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island who are affected by epilepsy.

Bill is recognized as an advocate for people with epilepsy throughout the region. He joins past recipients, Dr. Fred Hirschenfang, Millicent Kelly, L.D., R.D., and Dr. George Howard, to receive this prestigious award.

Over 625 people attended this unbelievable event, including many members from the Professional Advisory Board and the Board of Directors of the EFM & RI. Many of Bill's family and friends were also on hand to congratulate him on receiving this award.

This year's event raised in excess of \$35,000! Proceeds from this event have been donated to The Epilepsy Foundation of Massachusetts & Rhode Island to help continue the many programs that it offers. The EFM & RI is the only not-for-profit organization serving the more than 80,000 people from these states that live with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

The Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee is comprised of approximately 20 committee people. Our main goal is to bring epilepsy awareness to our surrounding communities, to raise funds for research, and to provide support for organizations that render services to the thousands of people who live with epilepsy every day.

Congratulations to the Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee for all their hard work and for their commitment to those who live with epilepsy every day, and to Bill Murphy, this year's "Inspirations for A Cure Award" recipient.



PAUL LAMOUREAX (left) presents a check for \$7,200 to Carol Pietroniro. In January, Lamoureux hosted a fundraiser for the Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee (WMEAC).

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.



THE PIETRONIRO FAMILY — Vincent, Michael, and Carol — at the Sixth Annual Dinner/Dance for Epilepsy Awareness at Chez Josef in Agawam.



CAROL PIETRONIRO (far right) with members of AHS's class of 2001 who presented a check to the WMEAC — Sara Gregory, Danielle Bachini, and Corinne Butova.

On April 26th...

STCC's Senior Nursing Class To Sponsor Health Fair

On April 26th, the senior nursing class at Springfield Technical Community College will sponsor a health fair. The fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Building 2, Scibelli Hall, at the college located at 1 Armory Square in Springfield.

Through this health fair, the senior nursing class hopes to educate those on campus and in the surrounding community about illness prevention and wellness issues. Topics that will be addressed are diabetes, child safety, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, stress reduction, smoking cessation, and domestic violence.

Nursing students as well as other professionals will be available to answer questions. There will be guest speakers and informational brochures will be available to take home.

The health fair is open to the public. For further information, call the Nursing Dept. at STCC at 781-7822.



BILL MURPHY (front row, second from left), who received this year's "Inspirations for A Cure Award," with his family and friends who came to the Dinner/Dance.



AWARD RECIPIENT BILL MURPHY (front row, center) with members of the Western Massachusetts Epilepsy Awareness Committee (WMEAC) at this year's Dinner/Dance at Chez Josef in Agawam.

On April 11th...

Free Walk-In Blood Pressure Clinic At The Atrium

The Atrium is offering a free monthly blood pressure clinic for residents of Agawam and surrounding towns beginning Tuesday, April 11th from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon.

This will be a walk-in clinic with no appointment necessary.

Cholesterol screenings will also be offered at the same time and are by appointment only for a fee of \$5. Both clinics are sponsored by Home & Community Health Services, Inc., and will take place at The Atrium located on 153 Cardinal Drive in Agawam.

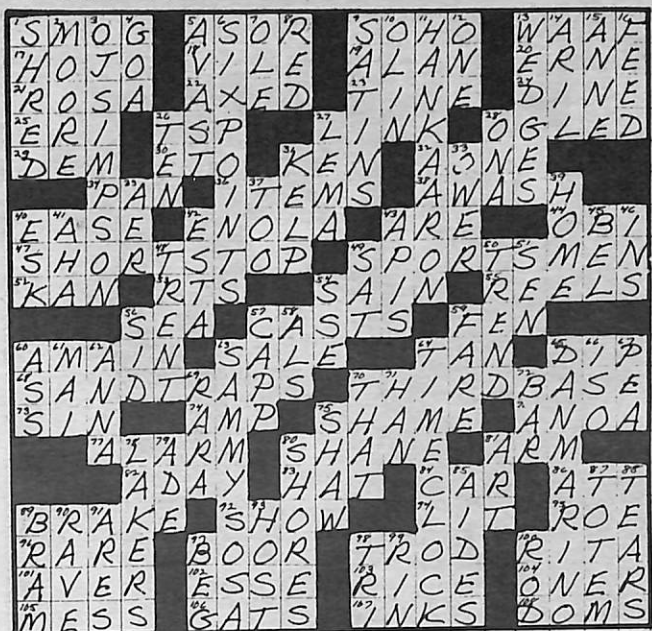
For more information, please call The Atrium at 821-9911.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice.



Arts

Last Week's Solution...



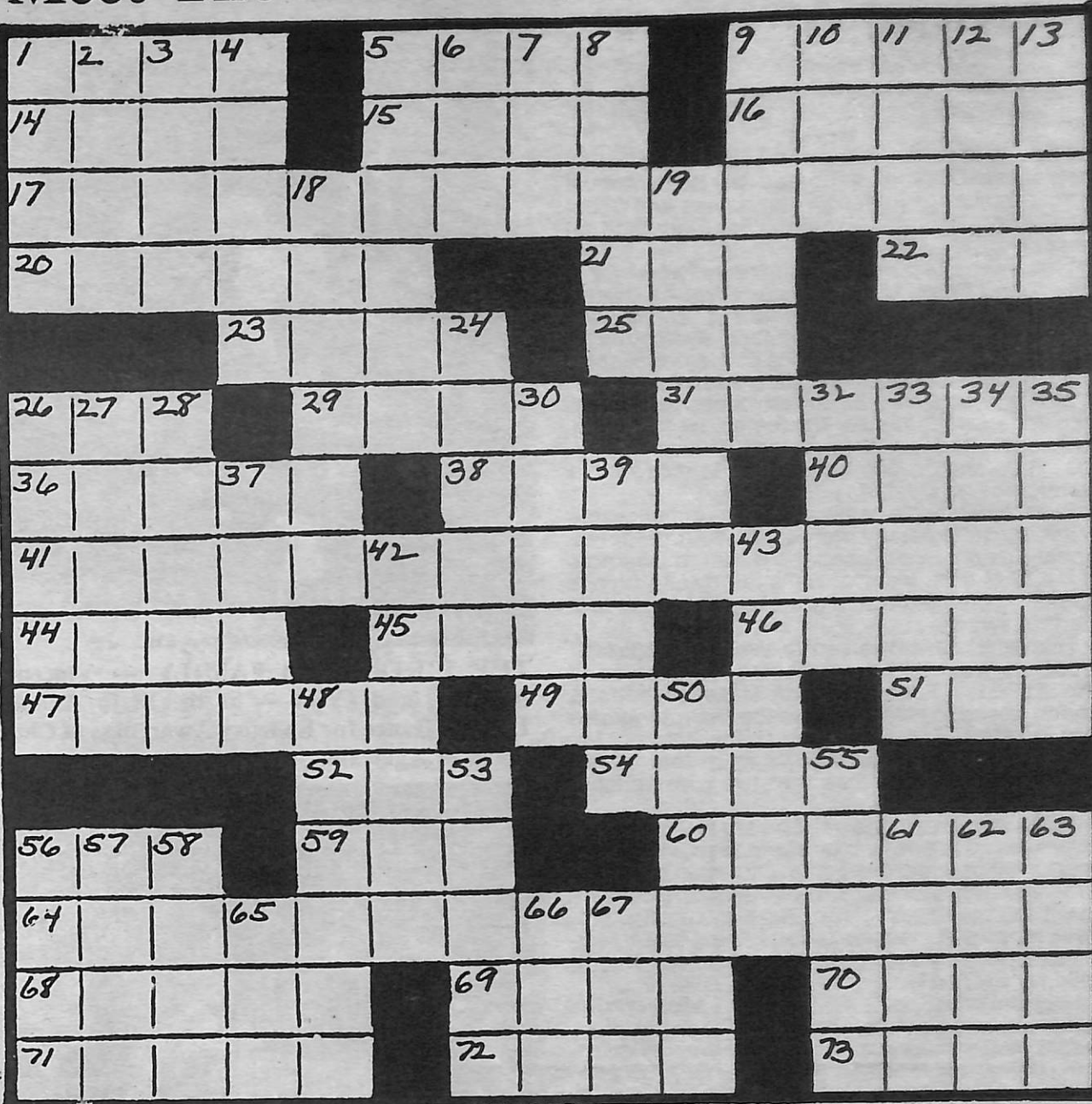
ACROSS

- 1 False idol
- 5 Rotate
- 9 Really fashionable
- 14 Or —
- 15 Dog on the Yellow Brick Road
- 16 Martin's partner once
- 17 Argue
- 20 Playground item
- 21 Shea Stadium player
- 22 "— Divorcee"
- 23 Very in France
- 25 Presidential nickname
- 26 Religious school (abbr.)
- 29 Fateful day in Rome
- 31 Sir Francis Drake's enemy
- 36 — and kicking
- 38 Guido's high notes
- 40 Soon
- 41 Believes
- 44 Followers
- 45 Bird with a crazy cry
- 46 Actor Davis
- 47 Prepared for laying
- 49 Sound of contentment
- 51 Curved letter
- 52 Author Buntline
- 54 Jack of "Hawaii Five-0"
- 56 Ripkin of the Orioles
- 59 — Magnan
- 60 Main arteries
- 64 Speechless
- 68 — sole
- 69 Sea eagle
- 70 Bird feeder treat
- 71 Gush
- 72 Word with off or down

DOWN

- 1 Wagers
- 2 Lotion additive
- 3 Arthur of tennis
- 4 Smallest amount
- 5 Type of tomatoes
- 6 Comic strip word
- 7 Judge Lance
- 8 "— Rae"
- 9 Irish county
- 10 Actor Ayres
- 11 Small branch
- 12 Actress Gam
- 13 Of pale coloration
- 18 Changes
- 19 Demean
- 24 Handle a problem
- 26 Fine fabric
- 27 Put on cloud nine
- 28 Ditka and Hill
- 30 One-masted vessel
- 32 Bucolic mothers
- 33 — for news (reporter's talent)
- 34 Singer/actress Day
- 35 S.A. mountain chain
- 37 Suit part
- 39 Call back
- 42 Moist land trees
- 43 Grief
- 48 Cry for more
- 50 Emulated Simba
- 53 Medicated
- 55 Slag
- 56 Lowlifes in Soho
- 57 Over
- 58 Etna debris
- 61 Oral test response
- 62 Arabian sea gulf
- 63 Atlantic flyers
- 65 Allow
- 66 Part of T.G.I.F.
- 67 Singleton

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



WestFest Arts Festival Slated For May 20th & 21st

The 19th annual WestFest Arts Festival is planned for May 20th and 21st in the rose garden at Stanley Park in Westfield. Activities are planned to make this year's festival a fun-filled weekend for all ages.

Presently, we are seeking volunteers to work the weekend of WestFest. Jobs include staffing art display areas, providing artist respites, assisting with Youth Art activities, and set-up and knock-down.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering to work at West Fest on May 20th and 21st or the week preceding the festival should contact Kate at 568-7476 or Ruth at 568-5253.

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Art Instructor Inspires Students To Exhibit Works

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

North Carolina native Anne Mueller has lived in Western Massachusetts since 1976 and has brought her own brand of light to art students of all ages. She has been teaching an adult education course at Agawam High School for 13 years, and several of Agawam's citizens enjoy her class and the warmth of her personality.

The students of Mrs. Mueller's class currently have their works on display at Agawam Library through April. She encouraged her students to try her favorite technique, that of emerging light from dark spaces.

"Their work is really good. I do teach realism and I believe if they can handle detail (realism), they can go into any phase of art. The subjects in the exhibit range from landscapes to a portrait of a classic car to depiction of the Coliseum in Greece, to animal portraits. The works of all students, including the fall sessions, are represented."

Mrs. Mueller earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Western Carolina University. Her concentration was in studio drawing and painting.

She began to teach painting in 1982. Her area of expertise includes watercolor, acrylics, oils, drawing, and pen and ink. To her, the most meaningful expression of her abilities has been the documentation of the disappearing farms that once abounded across the countryside.

An Important Quest

Mrs. Mueller's skill in depicting the withered face of farmer August Oertel and the historic farm he wanted to live in until his death brought her into the fringes of a political dispute about zoning laws in South Hadley. In her heart, the consideration to salvage the farmhouse for its historical significance was an important quest.

Mrs. Mueller spent 10 years documenting the vanishing farms of South Hadley and Chicopee, and when the Oertel house was finally relocated to make way for a supermarket complex, it was the end of an era - for farms and for her.

During that time, she received three grants from



PAINTING INSTRUCTOR ANNE MUELLER (standing) with her students **Ray Provost, Art Femmel, Bill Beaudry, and Jesse Maxim** (from Southwick-Tolland Regional High School). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, two from the Town of South Hadley and one from the City of Chicopee. The Chicopee Council on Aging owns three of 10 original Oertel farm paintings. They hang in their lobby to this day.

Mrs. Mueller did over 85 paintings in the disappearing farm collection but says she has under 30 left. The rest were sold. Using painting and sketches to aid in the dilemma of the disappearance of small, family-operated farms emerges as inspirational and intriguing. If the pen is mightier than the sword, than maybe the brush is mightier

than urban expansion. The works have captured, at the very least, the essence of this waning way of life in America.

Mrs. Mueller's works were displayed to the public at the South Hadley Library, Elms College, the Northampton Center for the Arts, and the Wistariahurst Museum. In 1989, Mrs. Mueller was selected for these works as the "Spirit of the Bay

SEE MUELLER - Page 32...

Check our
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Bistro Escargot - Escargot baked on a bed of wild mushroom ragout topped with garlic parmigiana butter

Entrées:

Poppy Seared Salmon - A salmon fillet with an herb poppyseed coating pan-seared and served over wild rice with a champagne dill sauce.

Goat Cheese-crusted Lamb Loin Chops - New Zealand lamb loin chops lightly coated with goat cheese, whole grain mustard and Japanese bread crumbs topped with a mint demi glaze served over smashed potatoes

Enjoy Spring Nights in the Bistro Lounge with the sounds of:

FRIDAY, April 7 - Piano Vocalist Kevin Burns

7:00

SATURDAY, April 8 - Pianist Natalie Borowiec

PM

???

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Saturday 4:30 - 10:00 p.m. • Sunday 4:00 - 8:30 p.m.

MUELLER - from Page 31...

State" in Ray Hershel's segment for News40, "for exhibiting above and beyond the call of duty to benefit the community in Western Massachusetts."

In 1998, Mrs. Mueller donated three pen and ink drawings of state champion trees in South Hadley for tree warden Richard A. Hunter. These are on display permanently at the South Hadley library. "The Rainmakers," a 24x48-inch oil painting on panel, "immortalized the door of the main barn and the farmer's efficient and clever use of olive jars to record the year's rainfall." (from an article by Theresa Giera in *The Herald American*, October 17, 1991).

Mrs. Mueller has lectured and given slide presentations to the Holyoke Rotary Club, the Massachusetts State Grange Association, Hampden County Farmers' Bureau, South Hadley Women's Club, South Hadley Historical Society, and Springfield Singles Club, Wistariahurst Museum.

Her exhibitions include Holyoke Community College, Northstar Restaurant, Gallery of Mt. Saint Vincent, Northampton Center for the Arts, and the Firehouse Museum in South Hadley.

In the early 1990's, she was invited to exhibit at the Boston Flower Show. This encouraged her to pursue her interests in garden statuary and florals. She continues to have interests in landscapes, architectural studies, portraits, and environmental still lifes.

Teaches Primarily At Holyoke Creative Arts

Mrs. Mueller teaches primarily at the Holyoke Creative Arts Center, an extension of Holyoke Community College. This includes five classes, plus specialty classes such as color theory, drawing, and seascape classes. These are mostly oil and advanced water color courses.

In the summer, she teaches programs at Holyoke Community College, and she has taught at the Chicopee Council on Aging since 1982. She has been teaching art for almost as long at the Springfield Hobby Club as well as Agawam High School.

The strengths of Mrs. Mueller rest in not only her talent as an artist, but also in her warmth and natural friendliness. She brings to her students an opportunity to learn in an encouraging environment where no one feels pressured. As one of the students phrased it, "Most of us have been taking her course for many years and we really love her."

Mrs. Mueller lives in Fairview with her husband, Mark, and her daughter, Sara. Of the future, she says, "I want to make art approachable for everyone. I never thought I wanted to teach, I just wanted to be a painter. But I really enjoyed teaching and I have met so many wonderful peo-



IN ANNE MUELLER'S ART CLASS, students (including Patricia Roy and Bernie Novotney) look at a painting by Corinne Pooler which incorporates a technique encouraged by Mueller. Standing, far right: Anne Mueller; seated: Corinne Pooler. Advertiser

News photo by Kathy Shepard.

ple.

"They've done amazing work. It just blows me away. I would like to continue teaching and pursuing my own interests, which include continuing the work I have begun on a book about my experience doing the farm series. I have almost finished a children's book about growing up in the south, too," she said.

"I really hope people in Agawam will visit the exhibit at Agawam Library and that the painting course continues to flourish at the Agawam High School for many years to come," Mrs. Mueller added.

Mrs. Mueller will also give a lecture, slide presentation, and demonstration for the Agawam Art League on May 1st in the Community Room of the Agawam Police Station on Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

* * * * *

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR "OLD" PHOTOS: If you've brought photos to our office for wedding announcements, scouting events, athletic teams, etc., we encourage you to pick them up during the month of April. As of April 30th, we will be disposing of all unclaimed photographs ... **ADVERTISER NEWS!!!**

* * * * *

Agawam Cultural Council Announces April 7th Program

The Agawam Cultural Council will present Frank Federico as its "First Friday" guest in April.

Federico is a nationally-known master pastelist and teacher. He will present an entertaining demonstration in pastel painting. Federico is admired by many local artists and patrons.

He will be appearing at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, April 7th, at 7:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend this free program.

"Plan Your Own Trip" To New York City On May 6th

The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a "Plan Your Own Trip" to New York City on May 6th. There are many activities (such as museums, plays, and other cultural events) which are available for people going on the trip.

Several stops will be made along Fifth Avenue, and included in this list are the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center, the Times Square Show Ticket Booth, and the 34th Street and South Street Seaport.

Time of departure is 6:30 a.m., and the return trip will leave New York City at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained by sending a check (made out to the "Agawam Cultural Council") and enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Agawam Cultural Council, 933 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001. Cost of the trip will be \$21.

For further information, call 786-1859.

Open Poetry Reading On April 12th At The Agawam Library

To celebrate National Library Week and National Poetry Month, the Agawam Public Library is holding an open poetry reading with Tom Nicotera on Wednesday, April 12th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Participants may read their poems or someone else's work, or may just listen to the various readings. Our host will also present several selected readings.

Tom Nicotera is a published poet, a member of the Charter Oak Poets at Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford, and editor of the forthcoming *Charter Oak Poets II* book.

He has hosted and/or participated in numerous readings in the Northeast and in the Washington, D.C. area.

This program is open to all ages. Please register in person or call 789-1550.

**Happy
"Sweet 16,"
Erica**



Gotcha Again!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Derek

Annual Agawam Rotary Club Golf Tournament

**Sunday, April 30th
St. Anne Country Club**

**Open To The Public
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For Additional Information, Call:
Tim, 786-2084; Kathy, 789-0812; Or Rosemary Sandlin, 786-3256



Education

A Reminder To Agawam Parents About MCAS Tests

"The MCAS are coming, the MCAS are coming!"

The administrators and teachers of the Agawam Public Schools would like to remind the parents of Agawam schoolchildren that on April 12th and during the period of May 15th-26th, MCAS tests will be administered to students in grades four, eight, and 10, and question tryouts will be given to students in grades five and seven. Testing time for fourth-grade students, which has been reduced to eight hours spread out over two months, will be reduced further next year to just six hours.

It is important for parents to remember that MCAS is just one, but important, part of a larger statewide effort designed to ensure that every child graduates from high school with the skills he or she needs to be successful in college or on the job. By preparing children for MCAS, they are placed on a path to succeed in the workplace or in higher education.

If your child is scheduled to take MCAS tests, make sure that he or she attends schools and participates as fully as possible. The law requires these tests, and students who do not take them receive a minimum score. Also, you and your school will miss the opportunity to receive important information about your child's performance.

The state has developed the following guidelines for parents:

✓ **Ask questions.** Ask your child's teachers what skills and knowledge he or she will be expected to learn during the year, and how you can help prepare your child to learn them.

✓ **Involve your child.** Read to, with, and alongside your child. Practice writing at home with "thank you" notes, journal entries, etc. Make match a part of everyday life (cooking, gardening, and paying bills all involve math). Ask lots of "why" questions where your child has to explain his or her thinking.

✓ **Review the MCAS questions.** Unlike most standardized tests, there are no secrets to MCAS. Copies of all test questions on which student 1998 and 1999 scores are based are available at your child's school and at the Department of Education MCAS website: www.doe.mass.edu/mcas.

✓ **Stay committed.** We're working as hard as we can to "raise the bar" for every child in the Agawam Public Schools. Stick with us!

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Agawam High School's Calendar Of Events For The Month Of April

April 7th: AHS students to represent AHS in Boston at the State House for the Annual Student Government Day; Open Discussion Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Third-Term Marking Period End.

April 8th: Indoor Percussion to State Finals, Salem, MA.

April 9th: Indoor Guard to State Finals, Salem, MA.

April 10th: "Buckle-Up 2000" - 6:30-7:15 a.m., Agawam High School Parking Lot (MADD of Pioneer Valley, the Agawam Police and the Substance Abuse Prevention Program); Indoor Percussion to UMass Tech Class, 4:00 p.m.

April 10th-14th: La Semana Santa - all Spanish classes; "Shakespeare Week" - sponsored by the English AP classes.

April 11th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the junior class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Annual Band Scholarship Concert, 7:00 p.m., \$5 Admission.

April 12th: "Fatal Vision" presented by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program. Speaker, John Minichiello, periods 2,3,4,6,7.; Girls' Wednesday Morning Discussion Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; ENGLISH MCAS, Grade 10; Math Club meeting; Intergenerational Poetry Group meeting, 1:50-2:35 p.m., Room 38; Induction Ceremony, La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, 7:00 p.m.

April 13th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the freshman class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Prevention on Drug & Alcohol Addiction sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Spring Celebration, Child Development classes; Family Resource Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Alcohol Awareness

for Prom Safety sponsored by Peer Leadership; Latin I/II classes to UMass for Classics Day; School Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 14th: Open Discussion Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Alcohol Awareness for Prom Safety sponsored by Peer Leadership; SHAKESPEARE ASSEMBLY, Period 7; Third-Term Report Cards issued.

April 17th-21st: SPRING VACATION.

April 20th: PROM 2000 "Time of My Life" - Chez Josef, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

April 25th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the Junior Class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting, 2:00 p.m.

April 26th: Girls' Wednesday Morning Discussion Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; "Making College Count" program for accepted seniors; Intergenerational Poetry Group, 1:50-2:35 p.m., Room 38.

April 27th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the freshman class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Family Resource Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; CLASS ELECTIONS sponsored by OSA; Peer Leadership dress rehearsal for junior high presentations; EARTH DAY FAIR, 6:00-9:00 p.m., AHS CAFETERIA.

April 27th-May 1st: BAND AND JAZZ CHOIR TRIP TO FLORIDA.

April 28th: CLASS ELECTIONS sponsored by OSA; Open Discussion Group sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Culinary Arts Club to host a college/culinary presentation by Holyoke Community College.

April 30th: AS SCHOOLS MATCH WITS team to Concord-Carlisle High School, Concord, MA.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.

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From The AHS Guidance Office...

by Judy Cohen
Agawam High School
Guidance Counselor

Is The Plate Too Full???

It was in the morning. I looked up from my desk and noticed a young gal standing in the threshold and looking very ill-at-ease. Taking a seat across from me, she leaned on my desk, using her elbows for support.

"Mrs. Cohen," she began, "I feel so uptight and overwhelmed." With that, her eyes filled with tears and she asked, "Can you help me?" "Of course, I'll try," I replied in earnest. "But first, we must figure out why you feel so overwhelmed. Tell me a little bit about what's happening in your life and maybe we will be able to put the pieces together and come up with an answer."

I proceeded to ask her the following: How many courses are you taking? How do you feel about them? What happens when you return home from school? How do you feel about that? What chores do you have to do? How do you feel about them? What about your family? How do you feel about them?

I listened intently as she spoke. As you can see from my questions, I asked her facts, followed by feelings. Yes, it's good to know the facts and what you are dealing with, but it's just as important to know how you feel about these facts. Feelings are usually the cause of stress; the facts, by themselves, are not.

So, together we examined what she had on her plate and how each thing appealed and tasted to her. We didn't examine how I felt about the things; rather, we looked carefully at how she perceived the things.

As she answered my questions, it became apparent that she had a lot on her plate. I told her to imagine going to a party where there was a buffet. At the buffet, she would be invited up to get a plate and to walk around the buffet table, helping herself to the array of food that was available.

"Tell me how you would do this," I said. By not telling her, I was forcing her to take ownership of the situation and to work out a solution herself. She thought for a moment and told me that she would look at what was available, decide if she wanted it, and then to take as much of each thing that she had room for on her plate.

"Aha," I smiled and shook my head in acquiescence. "Exactly!!! You would not take more on your plate than it would hold, nor would you choose things that were unappealing to you."

I explained to her that all of life was like that. We could liken life to a big plate, and all our activities, subjects, etc., to the food that we place on the plate.

"Think about your plate, and I think you will agree with me that it's very loaded. As a matter of fact, I wonder if you really can fit everything on that plate?"

Mary thought for a minute, conjured up the picture in her mind, and then looked at me, smiling. "You know, Mrs. Cohen, I think you may be right. It's hard to keep all that stuff on my plate, isn't it?" "Yes," I responded, "and that's why you are feeling so overwhelmed!!!"

Working with Mary, her teachers, and parents, we talked about how she could fit on her plate her studies, her sports, her musical instrument that required practicing, and her home chores. We made a schedule and allotted a certain amount of time to each thing. In that way, Mary could clearly see what she had to do and when she could accomplish it. She had to prioritize things. Everything could not stay on her plate each day.

As I always try to do, after a week had elapsed, I called Mary into my office. This time, I noticed she was wearing a whole different demeanor. Not burdened with a very heavy, overloaded plate, Mary looked more at ease.

"You know, Mrs. Cohen, it's amazing how much better I feel. Every little thing doesn't bother me anymore. I actually seem to have more energy, and I really am starting to enjoy most of what I'm doing."

Yes, Mary had lightened her plate and, consequently, her mood. With an easier load, her coping skills were enhanced and she was soaring!!!

* * *

For photo coverage in The
AAN, call 786-7747 or
786-8137; however, please
give us at least 72 hours'
notice.

"Sing-A-Long" At Clark School...



LAST MONTH, the Clark School kindergarten students of Jane Robinson and Amy Modzelewski (above and below) enjoyed a sing-a-long. Providing accompaniment was none other than Dr. Frank Ameruoso, Agawam's Superintendent of Schools. Ameruoso was complemented by Brendan O'Brien, who served as "Junior Superintendent" for a day. Advertiser

News photos by Kathy Shepard.



Locals Honored For Suf. Academy Athletics

At the Winter Term Athletic Awards Assembly at Suffield Academy on March 30th, the following area students were all honored with varsity letters and some received special awards.

Dance: Varsity Letter - Melissa Knight of Agawam.

Girls' Swimming: Class of 1981 Swimming Award

-Katherine Kilrain (tri-captain) of Feeding Hills; Varsity Letters - Hilary Golas of Agawam, Jennifer Modzelesky (tri-captain) of Feeding Hills.

Girls' Squash: Varsity Letter - Brittany Locke of Agawam.

Wrestling: Brett N. Vianney Most Improved Wrestler Award - Brandan Orsatti of Agawam.

The MacDuffie School

We're proud of



Claude Humphrey, Class of 2002
A sophomore from Northampton, Claude has had an exciting year on the basketball court. His first season playing for MacDuffie, Claude broke several school records: Most Points Scored In One Game (42), Most Points Scored in the Season (558) and Most Three-Point Field Goals in the Season (44). As a result of his success, Claude was named to the First Team All-Connecticut Independent Schools Athletic Conference and the South Kent Tournament / All-Tournament First Team. Congratulations, Claude!

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Recognized Students At Agawam High's World Language Night

PRIZEWINNERS

Slogan: Jenna Shea. Level 1 - **Poster:** First Place, Lisa Marie Dineen; Second Place, Leila Sekkal; Third Place, Zina Adzhigirey, Kristie Woszczyna; Honorable Mention, Nichole Circosta-Aspinall, Tatyana Adzhigirey, Nicki Gutowski, Nicole Dominick.

Level 2 - Travel and Tourism Poster: Latin - First Place, Gabrielle Robinson (Rome); Honorable Mention, Kaitlin O'Brien (Pompeii). Italian - First Place, Stephanie Smith (Basilica). Spanish - First Place, Brittany Theriaque (Colombia). Honorable Mention, Michael Lalli (Uruguay), Courtney Poirier (Peru), Kelly Cassidy (Mexico). French - First Place, Jenine Davignon (Tchad). Honorable Mention, Chris Holl (La Polynesie Francaise), Marlen Lepik (Monaco), Scott Howes (Belgique), Suzanne Dudley (Vietnam).

Level 3 - Biography Wheel: Spanish - First Place, Laura Laviolette (Felipe II). Honorable Mention, Jenna Shea (Selena), Elizabeth Gottardi (Santiago Ramon y Cajal), A.J. Martucci (Roberto Clemente), James Wisniewski (Juan de la Cierva), Michael Brunelle (Ruben Dario). French - First Place, Catherine Sheehan (Les freres Montgolfier). Honorable Mention, Renee Couture (Renee Descartes), Matt Couture (Jacques Cousteau), April Rondeau (Claude Monet).

LA SOCIEDAD HONORARIA HISPANICA

Current Members: Pamela Gervais, Scott Harris, Mary Manning, Brian Gilhooly, Jennifer Harvey.

New Inductees: Lisa Bienia, Gina Castellanos, Adam Elsworth, Sara Gregory, Ryan Lepard, Corinne Butova, Nicole Dominick, Michael Federico, Ashley Guile, Jennifer Mercadante.

LA SOCIETE HONORAIRE DE FRANCAIS

Current Members: Anthony Goodrow, John Marcotte.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

SPANISH 1

Most Improved: Sarah Desrochers, Crystal McNamee

Most Effort: Amanda Rozanski, Dan Drewniak

Highest Average: Natalya Skovorodina, Nicole Vadnais, Ian Hamlett, Chad Farrington, Kelly Reilly, Angeline Simone, Kerry St. Laurent, Christin Cilimberg, Amanda Moquin, Andrea Greaney, Kevin Baptiste, Paula Witte.

SPANISH 2

Highest Average: Jodie Pfau, Megan Mercadante, Brittany Theriaque, Kim Landry, Courtney Poirier, Aimee Beaudette, Alexis Chretien, Ashley Marek.

Most Improved: Jessica Parr, Eric Bland, Christine Jack, Jory Taylor, Joseph Pafumi, Michael Ferrigno, Matthew Perreira, Christine Powell.

SPANISH 3

Highest Average: Jamie Borkosky, Nicole Jensen, Maureen Skehan, Jennifer Bishop, Danielle Welner.

Most Improved: Laura Babbin, Jennifer Pietroniro, Jamie Wilson, Brian Borkosky, Brandon Donovan.

SPANISH 4

Highest Average: Corinne Butova, Gina Castellanos, Nicole Dominick, Sara Gregory.

Most Improved: Adam Escobar, Lauren Kida, Jessica Martel.

SPANISH 5

Highest Average: Scott Harris.

FRENCH 1

Highest Average: Nathan Krach, Kevin Fleming, Heather Cox.

Most Improved: Diane Jensen

FRENCH 2

Highest Average: Melinda Russo, Suzanne Dudley, Jenine Davignon.

Most Improved: Marlen Lepik

FRENCH 3

Highest Average: April Rondeau, Danya Decoteau.

Most Improved: Ellen Nasiatka, Rachel Caruso, Kevin Sliech.

ITALIAN 1

Highest Average: Jessica Viecelli, Melody Pope, Brian Knight, Bianca Chase.

Most Improved: Michael DeFilippi, Aleesha Grimaldi.

ITALIAN 2

Highest Average: Desiree Marsili, Jennifer Mercadante.

Most Improved: Joseph DiVirgilio, Joseph Stolpinski.

ITALIAN 3

Highest Average: Gina Goralczyk

Most Improved: Allan Grassetti

LATIN 1

Highest Average: Nicole Dominick, Leila Sekkal.

Most Improved: Leila Sekkah

LATIN 2

Highest Average: Gabrielle Robinson, Kaitlin O'Brien.

Agawam High School Guidance Bulletin

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations! **Doug Donaldson:** University of Massachusetts. **Katie Shannon:** University of New Hampshire, Stonehill College, Union College, Quinnipiac College, Westfield State College.

Allison Pisano: Westfield State College, Springfield Technical Community College.

Laurie Sakowicz: Springfield Technical Community College.

Ken Shaw: Ohio Technical College.

Mary-Elizabeth Dupelle: Providence College.

Pam Gervais: Wheaton College.

Elise Alfano: Clark University.

Kaleena Ennis: Penn State University, Bridge-water State University.

Amanda Galluzzo: Suffolk University, Framingham State College.

Justin Gorman: George Washington University, Fitchburg State College, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

SCHOLARSHIPS: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Eastern States Exposition Grant: This scholarship is open to Western Massachusetts residents who have been involved with activities at the Eastern States Exposition and who have been accepted to a two- or four-year accredited higher education institution. Deadline: July 1, 2000.

Western Mass. Baseball Umpires Scholarship: This scholarship was established to honor participants of Western Mass. high school baseball. This scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, sportsmanship, citizenship, courage, leadership, and athletic achievement in high school baseball. Deadline: May 15, 2000.

AHS Band To Sponsor Tupperware Open House On April 7th

The Agawam High School Band is currently involved in a Tupperware fundraiser to raise money for their spring trip. The sale began on April 3rd and will run until April 13th.

On Friday evening, April 7th, the band will sponsor a Tupperware Open House in the band room at the High School from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come and see all the new products.

Thank you in advance for your support.

For further information, contact any band member, Louise Pilegi at 786-0255, or Teresa Holl at 789-2897.

— Please remember to patronize your local businesses — ADVERTISER NEWS... —

STAGE Vacation Camp Workshop At The Red Door Theatre

STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATRE will run a four-day workshop during the April school vacation, April 17th-20th.

The workshop will have two sessions: Session A for ages eight to 15, running from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and Session B for ages four to eight, running from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The workshop will meet at THE RED DOOR THEATRE, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATRE is directed by Lyle Pearsons and Margie Secora, award-winning actors, directors, and playwrights. The week's activities will include theatre games, choreography, mime, puppetry, lighting and sound design workshops, set-building activities, and short improvisational playwork.

Session A tuition is \$125; Session B tuition is \$75. For information or registration, call the theatre at (413) 789-2026. The registration deadline is April 14th.

Agawam And Feeding Hills Students On Dean's List At WNEC

The following local students have been named to the Dean's List at Western New England College.

From Agawam: Danielle Roy, a senior majoring in management, is the daughter of Adriane Hill. Joshua J. White, a freshman majoring in management, is the son of Raymond and Tonie White.

From Feeding Hills: Jennifer R. Loomis, a freshman majoring in engineering, is the daughter of James and Laurie Loomis. Justin M. Malek, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, is the son of Frank and Marie Malek. Kate Rouvellat, a junior majoring in finance, is the daughter of Robert and Melanie Rouvellat.

Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Western New England College is a private, independent, coeducational institution founded in 1919. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, the College serves its 5,100 students on its main campus and at 20 sites throughout the Commonwealth.

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Jamie Sternowski Earns Gold Medal At "Hair Olympics 2000" At STCC



JAMIE STERNOWSKI (right) with her sister, Ashley Taylor.

News From Agawam Junior High's PTO

Canned goods were collected by families attending the band/chorus concert in December.

Items were then distributed to the Junior Women's Club holiday program.

A collection of used computer ink cartridges is under way, and will continue through the summer and all of the next school year. This program is sponsored by "Cartridges for Kids," which enables us to pick items from a catalog that will be useful for our school.

So, instead of tossing them, recycle them back to your child's school and help us provide useful materials. A box is in the school office for the collection.

The chorus and band held their annual spring concerts in March.

Both were enjoyed by the students' families.

Coming up in May: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and the Spring Book Fair.

Parent volunteers will be needed. For dates and times, please call Leslie at 786-3785.

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, April 24th, at 7:30 p.m.

Please come and join us.

Two three-person teams of cosmetology students from Springfield Technical Community College won first- and second-place trophies in "Hair Olympics 2000" on Monday, March 27th.

The event was sponsored by the Greater Springfield Cosmetology Association and staged at Dean Vocational High School in Holyoke. The purpose of the event is to showcase students from public and private cosmetology schools to owners and operators of hair salons in the area.

It is similar to all-star post-season games where professional scouts see athletes in competition and evaluate them, with an eye toward the athletes joining the professional team.

Each team member was expected to create a hairstyle, based on three categories: daytime professional look, an evening class look, and avant-garde. Each team was responsible for the overall "look" of the model. That included hair design, makeup, nail design, fashion, style coordination, and accessories.

The STCC teams received trophies. Each member of the team was awarded a gold or silver medal for individual performance. Awarded gold

medals were Tina Blake of Longmeadow, Jamie Sternowski of Feeding Hills, and Alicia Acuna of Springfield.

Awarded silver medals were Jessica Lunsford of Springfield, Meghan Lappin of Longmeadow, and Hala Jano of West Springfield. Blake, Lappin, and Acuna made up the first-place team. The second-place team was made up of Lunsford, Sternowski, and Jano.

Marilyn Rovelli, the Chair of STCC's Department of Cosmetology, stated, "This competition showcased some very talented students. As they obtain cosmetology license, I'm sure they will be in demand from various salons in the area and will be very successful in their careers. We are very proud of their accomplishments as individuals and in a team setting. I also congratulate faculty members Pat Luvera, Diane Tomkiel, and Joan Quinn who provided the education and guidance that brought them to a high level for the competitive arena. I also extend my appreciation to the entire cosmetology class and models for their support for the two teams."

Agawam Garden Club Has Scholarship For Agawam High Seniors

The Agawam Garden Club is offering a scholarship for any senior attending Agawam High School and who is planning on majoring in one of the following: agronomy, biology (non-medical), botany, city planning, conservation, earth science, environmental control/science, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, or other related areas.

Deadline is April 15th. For application and/or further information, please call Ann at 786-6835 or Barbara at 562-1507.

Area Students Named To Winter Term Honor Roll At Suf. Academy

The following area students have been named to Sufield Academy's winter term honor roll:

*** High Honors:**

Grade 10 — Brittany Locke of Agawam.

Grade 12 — Elizabeth Cowan of Agawam.

*** Honors:**

Grade 10 — Hilary Golas of Agawam.

Grade 11 — Melissa Knight of Agawam.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, April 10th: Pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and dressing, chilled fruit mix, milk.

Tuesday, April 11th: Oven-baked turkey burger with gravy, bread and butter, potato rounds, catsup, seasoned broccoli cuts, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Wednesday, April 12th: Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed garden salad with Italian dressing, Italian bread and butter, chilled peaches or raspberry Jello with topping, milk.

Thursday, April 13th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, steamed rice, bread and butter, seasoned diced carrots, dipping sauce or honey, chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

Friday, April 14th: Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, oven potato rounds, chilled mixed fruit or ice cream, milk.

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Sports

Boys' Volleyball vs. PVR...

Brownies Lose Season Opener To Panthers

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High took the long trip to Bernardston for a boys' varsity volleyball game against Pioneer Valley Regional in the spring opener on Friday, March 31st. The Brownies lost to the Panthers, 15-9, 10-15, 15-2. This was a match-up of last year's Northern Division champion (PVR 16-2) and Agawam, the Southern Division champions (15-3).

AHS Coach Pat Demers started a front line of Brian Forsman, Jeff Maynard, and Matt Gaffney. But the power was in the back with Joey Maynard, Brad Theriaque, and Mike Thomas.

Pioneer went off to a 3-0 lead before Agawam got on the board behind the service of Forsman. Some good back line play by the Brownies saw it 6-2, Panthers, before it was Theriaque's turn at the line. The co-captain brought the Brownies to a 6-4 deficit. Pioneer got two points on its next two service opportunities. It was 8-4 and the hosts were on a run.

The Panthers went up, 12-7. A spike and a service ace saw them take a 12-9 lead. They went up 13-9 and 14-9 and ran out the first game.

Agawam had to come back. Demers started Jeff Maynard, Gaffney, and Thomas up front. They were backed by Forsman, Joe Maynard, and Theriaque. A rafter ball saw PVR up 5-2 after a 4-0 run. Agawam needed some scoring. They got it courtesy of good service games from Forsman and Theriaque. A great set-up from Theriaque and a tip for the point off a Ken Shaw touch shot had Agawam down, 8-7. Half of it had to do with some good defense handed in by Vic Romano, Jeff Maynard, and Brian Forsman.

Locals Tie It Up

Agawam tied it up at 8-all on Forsman's service. Agawam fought hard from that point on. They were down, 10-9, and looking for a point when Jeff Maynard touched the ball up and set it up. Theriaque, at 6'3", came in and had the ball in his sights. The big spike from the senior saw things tied at 10.

Another big spike from Thomas, set up by a nice deal from Gaffney, and Agawam was up 13-10 and in good shape for the second game win. Agawam had a great rally going led by Theriaque, Gaffney, and Thomas, and went up 14-10. Jeff Maynard served out the game for a 15-10 win and an even match.

They lost the third game, 15-2. It happened because of one thing. "We had no communication. No one talked," is how Demers described the third game downfall. The kids agreed. "We didn't say anything," they said en masse.

Demers, who is a classy person, turned around to her kids on the long ride home. "We played well and we didn't play all that well. We're going to have a tough practice Monday."

Then she added, "It would have been a longer ride up here if we'd lost in two games."

The 20-year (and more) coach and official didn't address some less than professional officiating in this game - but we might. Pioneer took some balls in a set-up situation and carried very low. Some calls went big-time against the Brownies.

Amy Bilodeau Excels For Bentley Lacrosse

Agawam High School graduate Amy Bilodeau had three goals as Bentley College defeated St. Michael's College, 11-8, March 30th in a Northeast-10 women's lacrosse game at Bentley Athletic Field.

The victory was Bentley's first over St. Michael's in the Falcons' second season of varsity women's lacrosse. Last season, the Purple Knights took a 12-11 decision.

In a game on Sunday, April 2nd, Bilodeau, a junior, scored three goals as Stonehill College defeated Bentley, 10-7.

Bentley (2-1, 2-1 NE-10) jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the opening 4:30 of the contest, but Stonehill scored four straight tallies to take the lead for good.

Defense ruled the second half as Stonehill scored just twice while holding Bentley to a single goal.

Baseball Preview...

Coach Clark Hopes His Charges Will Once Again Show A 'Great Attitude'

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

We are all over the Agawam High boys' 2000 baseball season.

Because we really are homers and won't lie about it, we are luxuriating in their Western Mass. Division I championship season of a year ago.

Baseball is a most difficult game. One bad bounce off any bag or one hanging curveball, and it's over. That why it was so sweet seeing our Brownies beat the Western Mass. kings - Pittsfield High School - in their backyard last June in Waconah Park.

Last spring, Athletic Director Kathy McSweeney sent us up on the bus. Sometime, when you are sent on the bus, it's to a place like Moose Grin Hall and it's over. But we had a memorable time, led by Paul Federico and his wife, Susan. It's great that they will be back this year to follow their son, Corey.

And that is where we'll start in previewing the Agawam boys' baseball team - with their catcher. Last year, they called Corey up from the junior varsity. He was just a sophomore and a middle season replacement. He had to catch the likes of fireballer Brian St. Jean, his brother, Dave, and the outstanding newcomer, lefty Ben Lapins. He had to be a bit intimidated.

Not so this season. The kid, still a junior, has become a catcher - a person who can run a team. We've seen him in practice and he looks good. Corey is working on his hitting this year. "Yeah, I'm doing that big-time," he said.

First base will be held down by junior Tony LeClair. LeClair, an All-Western Mass. hockey star played third base last year. "My real position has always been first base. I never had a problem with third. I'm glad I'm back at first, though," LeClair told us.

Not only is LeClair an outstanding fielder, he is also a hitter of note. The junior, from the right-hand side, hit .394 last season. He drove in 26 runs and belted out four homeruns and had six triples. His sluggish percentage was .394.

Second base is the domain of Brian St. Jean. He is arguably the best pitcher in Western Mass. He is also a solid second-sacker and an even better hitter. St. Jean batted .410 last season. He usually went out of the three hole and turned in 17 RBI's, two homeruns, and four triples. His sluggish percentage was .650.

Jack Pearson will be at shortstop for the Brownies. Pearson, a two-year veteran, was an outstanding skier for AHS who worked hard to get the shortstop job. He will be backed up by junior Brandon Donovan.

Senior Derek Mercadante, who was injured most of last season, will be at third base. "Derek is very talented. He can also pitch for us. He will be very valuable to our program," Coach Pete Clark commented.

Then the coach wanted to talk about another kid who could make an impact in the infield - Sean

Mercadante. "Sean is a great utility infielder who can play every position there," Clark said.

A Formidable Outfield

Agawam's outfield is formidable. We'll go to centerfield. That huge acre is patrolled by Aaron Gilbert. The junior is known for his great performances with the Agawam wrestling team. His speed makes him a natural for the position. Senior Scott Harlin, an All-Western Mass. wide receiver in football, will be in leftfield. Brian Chechile, another senior, will be the rightfielder. Respectively, they hit .333 and .310 a year ago. "The great thing about these kids is that they are versatile. They can play every position out there," Clark smiled.

But nothing made him smile more than talking about his pitching staff. There is no doubt that Agawam has one of the best, if not the best, staff in Western Mass. They start with St. Jean, a returning All-Western Mass. hurler. The senior right-hander headed for Tennessee is a force. He has a heater, which is bringing the jug guns to AHS games heard by pro scouts. His hook drops off the table. His change-up makes you swing a second late.

We have a story about St. Jean. Two years ago, he went up against Central High's Pat Strange, now an up-and-coming member of the New York Mets' farm system.

If you ever saw Strange pitch, you would know when he unleashed his fast ball, it would make your knees knock. On this day, the scouts were up there with their jug guns, all targeted on Strange. Central won that day. Strange was on. So was St. Jean. It was amazing to see the guns starting to shift. They saw some heat they hadn't expected. We feel that day defined St. Jean. He became a force and people took notice.

The second kid is junior Ben Lapins, an All-Western Mass. selection. He is a left-hander and gives this team something most teams don't have in high school ball - power pitching from both sides. St. Jean and Lapins led Agawam to the Western Mass. crown last year.

"I think you have to have that core group in your pitching staff," Clark said. "We also have Marc Barcomb and Dan Boissonneault. Plus, there is Derek Mercadante and Scott Harlin. We have a pitching staff that is right there for us," he said.

What's Luck Got To Do With It?

But this is baseball. Luck has so much to do with it. "We have nine kids coming back. We are going to have to fill some holes. We'll run and play defense. We have some great teams in the league - probably championship teams in their own right, and I'll name them right now; Pittsfield, Holyoke, Minnechaug, and Chicopee Comp," Clark said.

Clark has a two-year, 33-13 record and two playoff appearances going into this season. "If we have that great attitude we had last year, we'll do well and maybe win another championship," Clark said.

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Girls' Tennis Preview...

Brownies To Feature Five Return Starters

Last year, the Agawam High School girls' varsity tennis team tied for second place in the B Division. For the 2000 spring season, Coach Mary Wolochowicz is confident about her charges' prospects for continued success.

"We have five return starters who will give us a pretty good nucleus," stated the veteran coach. "What's more, our beginners from last year have shown a lot of improvement."

The returnee starters from last season are co-captain **Kaitlin White**, first singles; **Liz Stieg**, second singles; co-captain **Keli Webb**, either third singles or first doubles; **Jen Jutte**, first doubles; and **Lisa Niedziela**, either first doubles or third singles.

The returnee beginners from last year are **Lissa Asta-Ferrero**, **Kristen Berry**, **Kat Demetron**, **Emily Morton**, **Brittany Shields**, and **Julia Spear**.

The new kids on the squad this year are **Marylen Grozinger**, **Ashley King**, **Jen Leupo**, **Anna Kirforishina**, **Kerri Merriman**, and **Kaitlin O'Brien**.

According to Wolochowicz, "If second doubles or third singles needs to be replaced, we are deep in those positions. If first or second singles, or first doubles, is out, we will hurt."

"However," she continued, "some of the new kids look promising. As the season progresses, it will be interesting to see who will live up to their potential."

The team's first match was scheduled for Thursday, April 6th (presstime), and Wolochowicz stated that the line-up was "still up for grabs."

Turkey Shoots At Pioneer Valley Sportsman Club

Members of the Pioneer Valley Sportsman Club, Inc., located at 101 Sikes Avenue, West Springfield, are pleased to announce that turkey shoots commenced at the club on Sunday, March 12th, and will run for six weeks.

ADVERTISER NEWS



REPRESENTING AGAWAM SWIMMING in the states were Lauren Kunkler, Sara Tremblay, Paul Lagasse, and Shannon Costa. Pictured with the swimmers are Head Coach Chris Johnson (far right) and Diving Coach Keith Paro (far left).

Agawam High Schools' Swim Team Holds Season-Ending Banquet

The Agawam High School swim team wrapped up their season with a banquet at Alexander's on Friday, March 3rd. The team finished at .500 for the first time in many years and was well represented in the Western Mass. Championships with a total of 15 swimmers.

The boys swam three relays (the 200 Medley, 200 Freestyle, and 400 Freestyle). Swimming the 200 Freestyle for Agawam were Paul Lagasse, Dan Adamski, Brian Borkosky, and Nate Adamski, while the 200 Medley saw Paul Lagasse, Dan Adamski, David Torrey, and Nate Adamski swim. The 400 Freestyle featured Colin Murray, Brian Borkosky, Matt Francis, and Dave Torrey.

The girls swam both the 200 and 400 Relays, with Lisa Niedziela, Daveen Macsata, Kyleigh Egan, and Rachel Morris.

Individual events saw Paul Lagasse and Nate Adamski swimming in the 50 Free and the 100 Butterfly while Shannon Costa swam in the 200 and 500 Freestyle.

Diving for Agawam were Stephanie Harnois, Lauren Kunkler, and Sara Tremblay.

Representing Agawam in the States were Paul Lagasse in the 100 Butterfly, Shannon Costa in the 500 Freestyle with Lauren Kunkler and Sara Tremblay both diving.

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In March 30th Scrimmage...

Baseball Brownies Enjoy Work-Out Vs. Suf. Academy

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Last Thursday's scrimmage (March 30th) against visiting Suffield Academy might not have gone in the record books, but Agawam High varsity baseball Coach Pete Clark saw some positive things come out of this practice game. It was the first time in training camp that the defending Western Mass. champions had a chance to face opposition other than themselves. He had to like it.

Agawam won, 7-1 in the abbreviated 5½-inning game. "Suffield had to get back to school for dinner because they all live on campus," the coach explained.

Clark had a plan in this one. Mostly, it had to do with his pitching staff, which just might be one of the best in Western Mass. and good enough to perhaps lead them to another title.

Newcomer Dan Boissonneault was first on the hill. The junior pitched two strong innings, giving up the only Suffield run via a leadoff and a two-out single in the second inning. In his two innings of work, Boissonneault gave up that one run, allowed two hits (a double and a single), struck out one, and walked two.

Agawam got three in the first inning when it sent nine guys to the plate. Senior Scott Harlin led things off with a single. Senior Jack Pearson drew a walk. Senior Brian St. Jean struck out and junior Tony LeClair clipped a bleeder in front of the plate. He was out, one, two, three. But the runners advanced.

A Nice Piece Of Work By Mercadante

Then, in a nice piece of work, senior Derek Mercadante fouled off a half-dozen pitches before finally walking to load the bases. The next Brownie batter, Brian Chechile, punched a single to center, driving in Harlin and Pearson. A Marc Barcomb single to center drove in Mercadante for the third run.

Junior All-Western Mass. returnee Ben Lapins was next in the rotation. He took a 3-1 lead into the third inning. The southpaw, who was one of the prime reasons for Agawam's success last season, didn't appear to miss a beat. In his two scoreless innings, he struck out six of the nine hitters he faced, walked two, and allowed one hit.

The bottom of the fourth saw Agawam pick-up four more runs. After leadoff hitter (junior) Corey Federico struck out, junior Aaron Gilbert managed a walk. Gilbert swiped second and third. Harlin walked to put runners at the corners. Pearson drove one to center, driving in Gilbert. With two on and one out, Brandon Donovan laced a double to center, driving in Harlin and Pearson. After LeClair flew out to right, Mercadante drove in Donovan with a two-out single.

The score was 7-1, Agawam, when its ace, All-Western Mass. returnee Brian St. Jean climbed the hill. He dusted the first two hitters he faced, mixing his heater with a wicked curve. The third batter grounded to second.

In St. Jean's next inning of work, he got the first two hitters on a strikeout and flyout to centerfield. A bloop single saw one runner on base. But St. Jean, who is headed to the University of Tennessee on a baseball scholarship, reared back and punched out the next Academy kid. That was the game.

The Suffield players wanted some chow, so they had to leave and Agawam never got its final at-bats. It was obvious the Western Mass. champs were dominant in this one. St. Jean finished his two innings with four strikeouts, allowed one hit, no runs, and no walks. He faced seven batters. In all, the three Brownie hurlers gave up one run, four hits, struck out 11, and walked four.

"At this time of year, the pitchers are always ahead of the hitters," Clark smiled.

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Great Season For The "Gray Sox"



THE MEMBERS OF Dominick's Gray Sox enjoyed an undefeated season and were the runners-up in the championship playoff against Greaney's Gold Team. Back row: Assistant Paul Vershon, Dan Cassidy, Mark Jeserski, Zach Bruneau, Andrew Kretschmar, Adam Plante, and Coach Ralph Dominick. Front row: Jon Jordan, Jon McGeoghan, Nick Vershon, John Dominick, and Luca Mineo.

Congratulations To League Champs



PICTURED ABOVE IS THE league champion grade five and six girls' gray team of the Agawam Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League. Front row: Brielle Beaudette, Lindsay Pfau, Heather Moffatt, Hana Al-Attar, Megan Lalli, and Ashley Proulx. Back row: Coach Dan Beaudette, Brittany Margiotta, Christina Harbour, Ashley Brinkman, and Assistant Coach Kevin Pfau. Congratulations to the girls and coaches for an exciting basketball season!

Mawaga Club's Year 2000 Lunker Derby Has Been Scheduled For Sunday, April 9th

The Mawaga Club will be holding its year 2000 Lunker Derby on Sunday, April 9th, at the club grounds on Adams Street, Agawam.

A \$15 donation includes fishing from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as well as free lunch for ticketholders.

Record cash prizes for the largest trout will be

available: \$200 for first, \$100 for second, \$50 for third, and \$25 for fourth. What's more, there will be a gigantic raffle and door prizes.

Prior to the fishing, a continental breakfast will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

For further information, call 789-3359.

Coaches Baseball Camp At Sacred Heart

The Coaches Baseball Camp will be conducting a mini-camp at Sacred Heart Church during the April vacation.

The dates are Monday, April 17th through Wednesday, April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00

noon and the cost is \$45.

Registration is at the field the morning of April 19th. Participation ages include eight through 14.

For more information, contact Brian Rheault at 789-4792 or Lou Conte at 786-7729.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses —

Springfield Turners Take Third Place At 3rd Meet Of Season

The Springfield Turner Gymnastics program competed in its third meet of the season on April 1st at Springfield. This meet was hosted by us at our home gym. Following is a listing of our competitors and their places.

* Girls 9-11 Lower (18 girls competed in this group)
Lisa Couture - 8th on beam, floor, vault and all-around, 5th on bars.

Jordan Pike - 5th on bars, 4th on beam, 3rd in all-around, and 1st on floor and vault.

Leah Mutti - 9th on vault, 7th in all-around, 6th on floor, 5th on beam, and 4th on floor.

Victoria Tran - 15th on beam, 11th on floor and all-around, and 10th on bars and vault.

* Girls 9-11 Advanced Lower

Meagan Pike - 7th on beam, 6th on vault and all-around, 3rd on bars and floor.

Samantha Fruwirth - 8th on beam, 3rd in all-around, 2nd on bars, and 1st on floor and vault.

* Girls 9-11 Middle

Meghan Little - 3rd on beam, 2nd on floor and vault, and 1st on bars and all-around.

Alli Stokowski - 3rd on vault, bars, floor, and all-around, and 2nd on beam.

* Girls 9-11 Upper

Stephanie Obue - 4th on vault, 3rd on beam and all-around, 2nd on bars, and 1st on floor.

* Girls 12-14 Lower

Sara Caplette - 4th on beam, 3rd on floor, 2nd on vault and all-around, and 1st on bars.

Felicia Tran - 6th on beam and vault, 5th in all-around, 4th on floor, and 3rd on bars.

* Girls 12-14 Advanced Lower

Nicole Payeur - 2nd on beam and 1st on bars, floor, vault, and all-around.

* Girls 12-14 Middle

Tami Burmeister - 6th on floor, 5th on beam, and 1st on bars, vault, and all-around.

Sarah Huffman - 7th on beam, 5th on vault and all-around, 4th on floor, and 2nd on bars.

Alison Dassatti - 6th on vault, 4th on bars, 2nd on beam and all-around, and 1st on floor.

* Girls 15-18 Lower

Alana Varelas - 2nd on beam, vault, floor, and all-around, and 1st on bars.

* Girls 15-18 Middle

Maryann Connor - 2nd on beam and floor, and 1st on bars, vault, and all-around.

* Girls 15-18 Upper

Dolores Cuccovia - 4th on beam, floor, and all-around, and 2nd on bars and vault.

* Boys 11 and Older Lower

Adam Stokowski - 3rd on parallel bars, 2nd on vault, and 1st on floor, rings, pommel horse, high bar, and all-around.

**Best local news with us,
each and every week...**



PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE members of the Holy Name Hurricanes, the winner of the division II playdowns in peewee III hockey.

In Peewee III Hockey...

Holy Name Hurricanes Win Recently Held Division II Playdowns

The Holy Name Hurricanes peewee III hockey team won the peewee division II playdowns which took place during February school vacation.

Due to the speed and tenacity of forwards Matt Campana, Nick Cardoropoli, Nate Almedia, Mike Badger, Ruben Borrero, John Jebb, Hank Oddi, Chris Reigner, and Sean Sullivan and the strong defensive lines of Mike Landry, Marc Pereira, Tyler Bokuniewicz, and Austin Huot, including the strong goaltending skills of Kevin "Mad Dog" Flanders, the Hurricanes were able to come away

with the trophy, defeating BayWest, Holy Name II, and WTM.

This team has worked hard all season, often coming up against faster and bigger teams. Although the Hurricanes have not had a winning season, a combination of positive coaching by Tom Bokuniewicz, Roland Huot, and Mike Flanders, along with team members who respect each other and work hard together, made this team a success.

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In Tri-Parish Bowling News...

Catholic University Takes Over First Place In Round 4

Notre Dame lost its first-place position by losing to St. Mary, 4-0, on Monday, March 27th. Notre Dame could only muster the power supplied by Cori "Lefty" Napolitan, who rolled a 308 series.

St. M anchor Rich "Golden" Snyder made his farewell bowling night (for this year) a big one by throwing a 143 single and a 375 series at stunned ND anchor Flo "Rocky" Rochford, who could only manage a 298. "Golden" is going to have knee surgery to repair some old damage (the extent of which will only be determined at surgery time). We all wish him a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

Mary "Not Marlo" Thomas had an outstanding night for St. M. Bowling a 131 single and a 361 series was her best ever. St. M moved into second place by virtue of this overwhelming night.

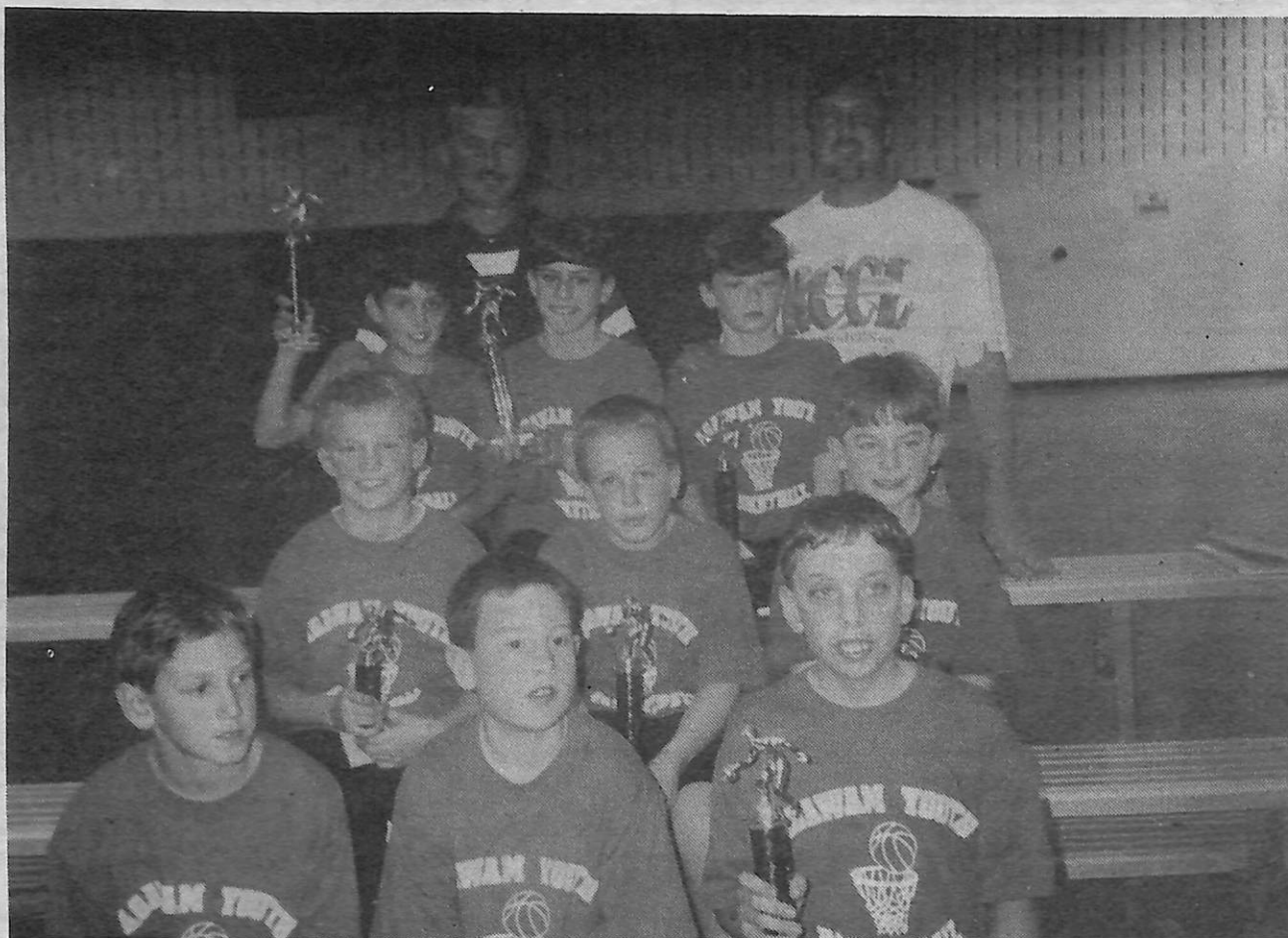
Catholic University took advantage of Notre Dame's bad night and moved into first place by whitewashing Holy Cross, 4-0. Kathy "Big Cat" Burlingham was not up to her usual self and only rolled a 295, but her teammates Jim "Jimbo" Lambert and Frank "Buck" Cerpovicz each ran off a 309 to power the team.

Ron "The Don" Menard, anchor for HC, had a 328 series, but he couldn't match the CU numbers. He did make the third string interesting by coming within one pin of a tie by running off a 119 single.

In another 4-0 match-up, St. Louis wiped out Georgetown. With the help of a 314 series by Jim "Big Mac" McCormack and a 353 by sub anchor Paula "Wild Thing" Burke (who threw a 136 single), St. L ran all over G'T. St. L won the first string by only nine pins, but raised that to 80 in the second and 74 in the third for a dominating effort.

In the last match, Fordham won over Boston College, 3-1. BC has been having a horrible time in this round, so its team members were pleased to win one point (it being only the second point they have in the round).

Vi "Speedy" Massoia rolled a 114 single, and Roger "Rabbit" Josephson added a 105 in the second string to contribute to this awesome event. F'ham anchor "Jolly" Oilly Muldrew won the battle of anchors over Betsy "Loaded" Cannon (who fired blanks all night), 325-303.



GO, TWISTERS!!! Back row: Coach Dave D'Amours and Assistant Coach Alan D'Amours. Third row: Bryant D'Amours, Andrew Guiel, and Eric Knox. Second row: Adam Gonyeau, Colin Langlois, and Sean Moriarty. Front row: Derek D'Amours, Robert Goff, and Sean Land.

For Grade Three & Four Boys...

Twisters Are In-Town Basketball Champs

The Twisters had an outstanding season, going undefeated, 10-0. All the kids have improved so much and put their heart and soul into the championship game against the Yellow Jackets.

What an exciting game! It was tight the whole time as both teams played great, with the Twisters ultimately triumphing by a score of

23-19.

The Twisters had a very good coaching team: Dave D'Amours and his brother, Alan D'Amours. Together, they taught the boys basic fundamentals, strategies, and — most importantly — good sportsmanship.

Great going, Twisters!

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Remembering...

A brightly embroidered fly fishing scene decorated the inside cover of the casket. Here lay a good friend to all the citizens of Agawam. Not just a fisherman, but a father, a husband, a grandfather, and the Guardian of the Town of Agawam.

Each springtime over the last several years, Ed Caba and I had planned a spring foray on the river. Poor weather, changing schedules, and occasional illness had always seemed to interfere.

But this year by gosh, we were really going to do it! Come hell or high water, we were going to enjoy a day on the water. A day with no phones, no worries, no politics, and plenty of stripers to keep us busy!

The promised fishing trip for stripers will not take place this year. The striper run will come far too late, as death had come far too early.

Those of us who knew and loved him will miss him greatly. Our collective condolences go out to his wife and family. Ed is at peace now, but his heart is dancing in a trout stream ... while one of those sparkling blue eyes keeps an eye on the Town and its people.

Good-bye, old friend.

FRESH WATER FISH REPORT

The Division has stocked the local waters with trout and some leftover broodstock Atlantic salmon. Early morning trollers and shore fishermen are doing well. Mepps, Rooster Tails, and Power Bait are all working well.

Bass fishing is picking up on valley waters.

On Congamond or Hampton Ponds, try lead head and twister tail combos along deeper drop-offs. Jerk baits fished adjacent to emergent weed beds and channel edges will usually do the trick.

The rivers are far too high at this point in time, and there is little news on fishing the Connecticut. The exception is that the perch bonanza in Hamburg Cove continues. Micro tubes and small twister tail grubs on lightweight lead heads are doing the trick. The "bait and wait" crowd has been scoring on grass shrimp.

SALT WATER FISH REPORT

Stripers are continuing to hit in the Thames River, as well as in and around the mouth of the Connecticut River in the Old Saybrook area. The flathead jig and pork rind trailer combo seems to be the hot ticket and will probably continue to produce fish.

Winter flounder are being taken in Niantic Bay, the Niantic River, as well as at other traditional spots. Sand worms seem to be outfishing clam strips, according to informed sources.

No party boat news this week, but it is safe to assume that there are no major changes from last week's report.

Some shad have been spotted in the lower stretches of the Connecticut River. It won't be long now!

April 12th Sign-Ups For Fall 2000 Youth Football Season

Sign-ups for the fall 2000 Agawam Youth Football season will be on Wednesday, April 12th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School.

The registration fee is \$75. You must be between the ages of eight and 14.

New players should bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Anyone interested in coaching should contact either Coach Parker at 786-6604 or Greg Barrows at 821-8984.

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Daggett's Level 5 Girls Compete In Tewksbury

The Women's Level 5 Team from the Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics School traveled to Tewksbury, Massachusetts, recently to perform in the open invitational sponsored by the Massachusetts members of National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges.

The meet, called the Judges Bunny Cup, draws many of the younger and up-and-coming athletes from around the state. The goal for many of the competitors, as well as earning trophies, was to achieve qualifying scores to proceed to a Sectional meet later this month. This meet gave one more opportunity for the girls to meet the minimum 31.5 in All-Around scoring to move on.

The girls were broken down into four groups. Kayla Levreault of Southwick, Daggett's sole competitor in the age 7-9 group, had a notable performance on Beam, taking fourth place with an 8.25 score.

In the 9-10 age group, Kristin Cadigan from East Longmeadow led the team with high scores on Uneven Bars, 8.75, and Beam, 8.0. Three girls also did well on Vault: Andrea Ouellette of Longmeadow, with an 8.25; Brittany LaFlamme of Feeding Hills, scoring 8.10; and Ashley Watson of Enfield, Connecticut, with an 8.15.

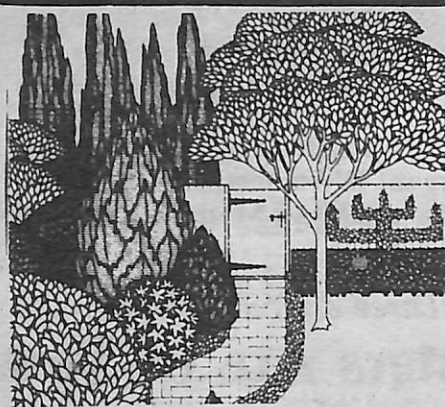
The 11-12 age group had a strong showing.

Amber Higley of Suffield, Connecticut took seventh on Vault, and fifths on Beam, Bars, and Floor Exercise. In the All-Around, she captured fourth with a 33.85. Rachel Foltz from East Longmeadow took second place on Bars with a high 8.90 and ninth on Floor with an 8.05.

Diana Forbes of Agawam placed fifth on Vault and sixth on Beam with an 8.60. Nora Parsons from Suffield also did well, taking second on Vault with an 8.5 and seventh on Floor, scoring 8.20, while Kristen Levesque of Wilbraham scored an 8.15 on Beam and 8.35 on Floor for sixth.

In the 13 and older group, Katie and Alicia Malloy from Feeding Hills split-up the winning honors for each of the events. Alicia took first in Vault and Bars, while Katie took firsts in Beam and Floor. Katie led in the All-Around with her 33.55 total, followed by Alicia with 32.30.

Ultimately, three more girls achieved their qualifying scores; Kristin Cadigan, Kristen Levesque, and Nora Parsons. Other efforts deserving acknowledgement were made by Daggett's girls Erika Ellis, Erin Murray, Angela Oddo, Amy Damon, Allison Smith, Andrea Ziter, and Maurica Sweeney, who have been training since last summer for these competitions.



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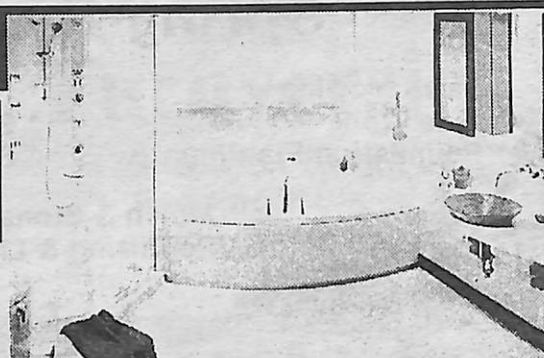
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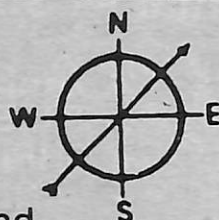
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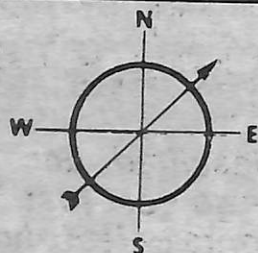
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HELP WANTED: Pizza delivery driver. Pays well; full- or part-time. Apply within. Mamma Mia's Pizzeria, 60 Park Street, West Springfield, MA. Must have own car.

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DRIVER — TOWN OF AGAWAM: Part-time on call driver to deliver meals to elders, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Must be dependable, have own vehicle, and possess valid Massachusetts driver's license. Salary is \$7.55 per hour plus \$.30 per mile. Review of applications will commence immediately. Please apply to Personnel Office, Town of Agawam, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. The Town of Agawam is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

FOR SALE TAG SALE

FOR SALE: 2 square Ethan Allen end tables, excellent condition, \$50 each; maple hi-fi cabinet, good condition, \$50; Singer sewing machine, walnut cabinet, \$65; gold Tiffany style hanging lamp, \$70. 786-8536.

TAG SALE: 4/8/00, 9:00 to 4:00. Rabbit cage & hutch, exercise equipment, jewelry, glass shower doors, antique radio, swivel bar stools, women's/kids' clothes/shoes, girl's Raleigh mountain bike, misc. items. 727 Northwest St., Feeding Hills.

FOR SALE: Arborvitae & hemlocks. 3-3½ ft., \$9; junipers, \$4. Free delivery. 786-8631 / 530-5454.

Best local news with us...

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Super Bookkeeper Position

Country Squire's take-charge bookkeeper will retire soon. We need a person that does it all through monthly statements. Establish your own work schedule. 25-30 hrs. wkly.; good benefits. Contact Arthur Leary, 786-9121.

Agawam School Dept. Library Clerk

Library Clerk at the Sr. High. Please send resume to Agawam Public Schools, Mr. Donald J. Charest, Deputy Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 by April 14, 2000.

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